

PROCEEDINGS
of the
Sixty-Seventh Annual Convention
of
The Icelandic Evangelical
Lutheran Synod of America



NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE

537
30th
1951

66. Árg. Winnipeg, Júlí, Ág., Sept., 1951 Nr. 7-8-9

PROCEEDINGS Sameiningin

(Gjörðabók kirkjupingsins)

67. ÞING

haldið að Lundar, Man.

22.—25. júní 1951

Ritstjóri: Séra V. J. Eylands, B.D.
686 Banning St., Winnipeg, Manitoba

Féhirðir: Mrs. B. S. Benson, 695 Sargent Ave., Winnipeg

PROCEEDINGS
of the
Sixty-Seventh Annual Convention
of
The Icelandic Evangelical
Lutheran Synod of America

A Constituent Synod of
THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Held in
LUNDAR PARISH, MANITOBA

JUNE 21 - 25, 1951

REV. S. J. SIGURGEIRSON
Secretary

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, 1951

Sixty-Seventh Annual Convention

The Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America
Held in Lundar Parish, Manitoba
June 21 - 25, 1951

OPENING SESSION

The opening service was held in the Lundar Lutheran Church in Lundar, Manitoba, Thursday, June 21, commencing at 8 o'clock p.m. The service was conducted by Pastor J. Fredriksson, with Rev. S. Olafson assisting at Communion. The Rev. Haraldur Sigmar, D.D., of Blaine, Wash., preached the sermon on Matthew 7:20. The choir was directed by Mr. V. Guttormsson with Miss Irene Guttormsson at the organ. Eighty-three communicants presented themselves at the Lord's Table. The offering of \$38.46 was dedicated to the Pastors' Memorial Fund.

Following the service, President Fafnis formally opened the Sixty-Seventh Annual Convention of Synod. While the service was conducted in Icelandic, opening of the convention was conducted in English.

(Sessional Papers No. 1)

The Secretary presented the roll of officers, ministers and congregations of synod.

The Committee on Credentials appointed were: Bjorn Jonsson, Thorsteinn Gislason, Rev. S. J. Sigurgeirson.

Dr. Knudten, the fraternal delegate from the United Lutheran Church in America, and Miss Frances Dysinger, LL.D., Promotional Secretary of the Women's Missionary Society, were introduced to the convention.

Greetings were read by the President from the Most Reverend Sigurgeir Sigurdson, D.D., Bishop of Iceland.

Pastor Fredriksson welcomed the convention to Lundar on behalf of the Lundar congregation and community..

Rev. V. J. Eylands drew the attention of the convention to the honor bestowed upon President Fafnis by the Government of Iceland in presenting him with the "Order of the Falcon". The convention arose in honor of this meritorious reward. The session was adjourned.

SECOND SESSION

The session convened on Friday, June 22, at 9 a.m., in the Lundar Church where all the sessions of the convention were held.

The convention chaplain, Rev. Harald Sigmar, conducted the period of devotions, in Icelandic. The congregation sang hymn No. 229. The meditation was based on 2 Tim. 1:8-12, followed by prayers and the Benediction.

The President called the session to order.

Dr. Sigmar explained why there was no delegate from the Blaine congregation.

(Sessional Papers No. 2)

Rev. Sigurgeirson presented the report of the Committee on Credentials. The report was adopted as read.

Stefan Guttormsson was given the privileges of the floor of the convention.

The Committee on Agenda was now elected in the persons of: Rev. Olafson, Rev. Guttormsson, Rev. Eylands.

(Sessional Papers No. 3)

The President presented his report.

(Sessional Papers No. 4)

The Secretary presented his report and statistical summary.

(Sessional Papers No. 5)

The Treasurer presented his report.

(Sessional Papers No. 6)

The report of the Missions Committee was presented by Rev. Eylands. The report was adopted as read and referred to a committee of five: Rev. H. Sigmar, A. S. Dinuson, Bjorn Johnson, Miss Mattie Halldorson, Mrs. John Axdal.

(Sessional Papers No. 7)

The annual report of the Board of Trustees of Betel Old Folks' Home was presented by Rev. Olafson. The report was received and referred to committee: J. G. Johannson, Marino Briem, Mrs. G. Vigfusson, Mrs. Runa Anderson, Mrs. G. Solmundson.

The session adjourned at noon.

THIRD SESSION

The session opened with the singing of hymn No. 78 (Icelandic).

(Sessional Papers No. 8)

President Fafnis presented the report of the Treasurer of Sameiningin. A supplementary report on the Sameiningin was presented by Dr. Marteinsson.

Both reports were received and referred to Committee on Publications: Dr. Sigmar, G. J. Oleson, Th. Gislason, Mrs. H. B. Hofteig, Mrs. B. K. Jonsson.

(Sessional Papers No. 9)

Rev. Eric Sigmar presented the Stewardship report.

(Sessional Papers No. 10)

Mrs. S. Sigurgeirson presented the report of the Lutheran Women's League.

The report was received and referred to committee: Rev. Johann Fredriksson, E. H. Vigfusson, Mrs. Gudny Gutormsson.

(Sessional Papers No. 11)

Mrs. A. S. Bardal presented the report of the Manitoba Temperance Alliance.

The report was received and referred to committee: Mrs. S. Sigurgeirson, Mrs. Tom Einarson, Páll Stefanson.

Miss Frances Dysinger, LL.D., the Promotional Secretary of the Women's Missionary Society, addressed the convention. Miss Dysinger elaborated on the great work being done by the W.M.S. of the U.L.C.A.

(Sessional Papers No. 12)

The report of the Agenda Committee was presented by Rev. Olafson and adopted as read.

A recess was declared to partake of afternoon coffee.

The President read greetings to the convention from Rev. K. K. Olafson, Rev. B. A. Bjarnason, Rev. and Mrs. Octavius Thorlakson, and Dr. Kolka.

These messages of goodwill were referred to the Committee on Resolutions and Greetings: Dr. Marteinson, Skuli Sigfusson, V. Sigvaldason.

Skuli Sigfusson was seated as a delegate in place of Leo Danielson, who had to leave.

Rev. Eylands introduced the discussion on the work of the Home Missions Committee.

The Convention Committee on Missions was delegated to study and report on the situation prevailing in the Foam Lake-Wynyard Mission Field. Adopted.

Rev. Guttormsson was asked to summarize the proceedings of the convention for the Parish Messenger. Adopted.

G. Oleson was delegated to report convention news to the Löbberg.

Rev. E. Sigmar undertook to report convention highlights to the Lutheran.

A motion to refer all matters pertaining to publication, to the Convention Committee on Publications, was adopted.

The motion to elect a committee of three to formulate recommendations concerning "Youth Organization" work was adopted. Committee: Stefan Guttormsson, Mrs. A. Blondal, Mrs. Skuli Stefanson.

Moved, that a committee of five be elected to study the relationship of our synod with the U.L.C.A., under the following headings:

1. Lutheran World Action.
2. Christian Higher Education.
3. Apportionment. Adopted.

Committee: Rev. Eylands, G. Bjornson, J. Valdimarson, Miss Joan Gudmundson, Miss Hansina Gunnlaugson.

1. Resolutions and Greetings

This matter was referred to the Convention Committee on Resolutions and Greetings (Agenda Item No. 7).

2. Lutheran Women's League and Sunrise Lutheran Camp

This matter was referred to committee previously appointed to study the report of the Lutheran Women's League (Agenda, Item No. 9).

3. Forums on Faith and Doctrine

A motion to refer this subject to Convention Committee of three was adopted. Committee: Rev. Olafson, F. P. Sigurdson, Mrs. A. S. Dinuson.

The motion empowering the Executive Committee to

procure a place for the records and books of the Synod was adopted.

The motion to elect a committee of five to study the by-laws of Synod for the purpose of recommending ways and means for accelerating the procedure of conducting the business of the convention, was adopted.

Committee elected: Rev. E. Sigmar, Rudolph Trapp, H. Thompson, E. Danielson, H. J. Austman.

FRIDAY EVENING CONCERT

Devotion period was conducted by the Convention Chaplain. Hymn No. 337 was followed by a reading from Luke 14 and meditation thereon, prayer and the Benediction.

President Fafnis presided as chairman.

The choir, under the direction of Vigfus Guttormson, with Miss Irene Guttormson at the organ, rendered three numbers: "Ó Guð vors lands", "Lofið Guð" and "Æðstur Drottin".

The Chairman now introduced the guest speaker, the Rev. Edwin H. Knudten, D.D., President of the New Jersey Synod and the fraternal delegate to the convention from the U.L.C.A.

Dr. Knudten's subject was: "The Program of a Great Church with a Universal Vision".

Rev. Eylands thanked Dr. Knudten for a very informative and most edifying message.

The choir rendered three more selections: "Lof sje þér góði Guð", "Heilagi Herra Guð" and "Góða Nótt".

The President thanked the choir leader, organist and choir for work well done. This evening of excellent entertainment terminated in the community hall with the serving of refreshments by the ladies.

FOURTH SESSION

Saturday, June 24th, the convention assembled at 9.00 a.m.

Devotions were conducted in Icelandic by Rev. Olafson. Singing of hymn No. 50 was followed by a meditation on Psalm 103, and hymn No. 48.

A motion to dispense with the readings of the minutes to save time and to have the Executive Committee study

and pass on them immediately after the convention, was adopted.

Motion to grant to Dr. Knudten the privileges of the floor of the convention, was adopted.

Proposed by motion that lay members of the Executive and Ministers' Wives be given the privileges of the floor. Adopted.

(Sessional Papers No. 13)

4. Missions

The Convention Committee's report was presented by Rev. H. S. Sigmar.

The report was considered seriatim. After adoption seriatim the report was adopted as a whole.

Motion to seat Fisher Einarson as a delegate was adopted.

(Sessional Papers No. 14)

5. Old People's Homes

The committee report was presented by J. G. Johannson and considered seriatim. After adoption seriatim the report was adopted as a whole.

The convention adjourned till 2.00 p.m. to enable the committees to work on reports.

FIFTH SESSION

The session reconvened at 2.00 p.m., with the singing of hymn No. 9 (Icelandic).

It was suggested by J. G. Johannson that the convention should commence early enough in the week to exclude the possibility of the convention's time in extending over unto Sunday. Mr. Johannson also suggested that to save time, the annual reports should be printed and distributed among the delegates instead of being presented individually.

Rev. H. S. Sigmar suggested that the President's report, in the future, be presented in English, as some of the delegates are not conversant with the Icelandic language.

Mrs. Johnson, of Cypress River, suggested that the Ladies Aids render help to the Mission Project in Saskatchewan.

(Sessional Papers No. 15)

6. Cooperation with U.L.C.A. and its Auxiliaries

The report was presented by Rev. Eylands. After adoption seriatim, the report was adopted as a whole. Its first and second sections were adopted by a rising vote.

(Sessional Papers No 16)

7. Youth Work

The report was presented by Stefan Guttormsson. The report was adopted seriatim and as a whole.

(Sessional Papers No. 17)

2. Lutheran Women's League and Sunrise Lutheran Camp

The report was presented by Rev. Fredriksson. It was adopted seriatim and as a whole.

The convention adjourned for thirty minutes.

Motion that Missions Committee of Synod continue to support the Missions at Vancouver, Blaine and Cavalier, through the B.A.M. of the U.L.C.A., was adopted.

(Sessional Papers No. 18)

8. Laymen's Work

The committee appointed to study and report on Laymen's Work were: B. K. Jonsson, Tom Einarson, Sigurjon Johnson.

The report was presented by Stefan Guttormsson. Motion that this report be referred to the Executive for action was adopted.

(Sessional Papers No. 19)

9. Publications

The report was presented by Dr. Sigmar. After adoption seriatim, the report was adopted as a whole.

Motion that delegates be asked to gather 'patron' advertisements for the Sameiningin, was adopted.

(Sessional Papers No. 20)

The report on the revision of the by-laws was presented by Rev. E. Sigmar.

Motion that the convention receive the report. Adopted.
Motion to adjourn was adopted.

SATURDAY EVENING CONCERT

Devotions were conducted by Convention Chaplain. The singing of hymn 360 was followed by Scripture reading from Matt: 24, meditation and prayer. Rev. Fredriksson acted as chairman.

Niel Bardal, Treasurer of Synod, and who is a member of the Lutheran Laymen's movement, spoke on Christian Stewardship. He gave a personal testimony of how God had saved his life at Hong Kong and also in the Japanese prison camp. His message will long remain with all who heard it.

President Fafnis announced to the assembly that Mrs. Blondal had presented to the Synod an "Audio-Visual Kit", in memory of her late husband, Dr. Blondal. The President thanked Mrs. Blondal for this useful gift and the convention showed its appreciation with a rising vote of thanks.

Stefan Guttormsson rendered a vocal solo.

President Fafnis addressed the concert. He named his address "A few moments in Iceland". In his brief but eminently effective talk he deplored strongly the lack of enthusiasm among our people in matters pertaining to their church.

Miss Ingibjorg Bjarnason rendered three vocal solos.

The moving picture, "The Turn of the Road", was shown.

The offering was donated to the Vancouver congregation as a contribution towards the transportation expenses of their prospective pastor and family from New York to Vancouver.

This enjoyable evening ended with the singing of the Doxology.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Services were held in the Lunda parish as follows: Icelandic service at Otto, 11 a.m., conducted by Rev. S. Christopherson; Icelandic service at Lunda, 2 p.m., conducted by Rev. G. Guttormsson; English service at Silver Bay, 2 p.m., conducted by Rev. H. S. Sigmar and Rev. E. Sigmar; Icelandic service at Vagar, 2 p.m., conducted by Rev. S. J. Sigurgeirson. Three children were baptized at this service.

SUNDAY EVENING CONCERT

Devotions were conducted by the Convention Chaplain. The singing of hymn No. 283 was followed by a meditation on Phil. 3:7, prayer and the Benediction.

President Fafnis presided, and introduced Dr. Fry, the guest speaker. Dr. Fry told about his recent trip around the world and stressed the dire need of suffering humanity in different parts of the globe. He pointed out the necessity of giving more to Lutheran World Action. His address was a soul-stirring message — a compassionate plea to help the destitute, to come to the rescue of the refugees who are without a country, without a home and without life's necessities. Verily, his was a voice 'crying in the wilderness', Christians, do your duty!

The Rev. and Mrs. E. Sigmar sang a duet.

President Fafnis expressed most vividly the feelings of everyone present when he thanked Dr. Fry for his great message.

Offering received was donated to Lutheran World Action.

This ever memorable evening came to a close with the singing of the hymn, "Beautiful Saviour", and with the world renowned Church Leader, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church in America, pronouncing the Benediction.

SIXTH SESSION

The closing session assembled at 9.00 a.m., June 25.

Devotions were conducted in Icelandic by the Convention Chaplain.

Motion to seat F. Bjarnason as delegate from the First Lutheran Church was adopted.

The convention proceeded to election of officers and standing committees of Synod.

Scrutineers appointed were: Sigurjon Johnson, Rev. E. Sigmar, with N. O. Bardal and Rev. J. Fredriksson assisting.

Honorary Patron, the Most Reverend Sigurgeir Sigurdson, Bishop of Iceland; Honorary President, Rev. K. K. Olafson; President E. H. Fafnis was re-elected; Secretary elected was Rev. H. S. Sigmar; Treasurer N. O. Bardal was re-elected; Vice-President V. J. Eylands was re-elected; Assistant Secretary elected was Rev. S. Olafson; Assistant Treasurer elected was J. G. Johannson; Stewardship Secretary Rev. E. Sigmar was re-elected.

Clerical members elected to the Executive of Synod were Rev. V. J. Eylands and Rev. S. Olafson.

Lay members elected to Executive of Synod were Skuli Stefanson and J. G. Johannson.

Trustees of Betel (term expiring) re-elected were Mrs. B. J. Brandson and Dr. B. H. Olson.

The election to the Board of Trustees of "Borg Pioneer Memorial Home", Mountain, N. Dak., of Chris Gudmundson, of Mountain, N. Dak., and of Joe Northfield, of Akra, N. Dak., was ratified by the convention.

Missions Committee, clerical members: Rev. V. J. Eylands, Rev. S. Olafson, Rev. J. Fredriksson.

Missions Committee, lay members: Mr. B. S. Johnson, Mr. Joe Peterson.

Auditor for Synod, was re-elected, F. Thordarson.

Auditor for Betel Old Folks' Home was re-elected, O. B. Olsen.

Mrs. A. S. Bardal was re-elected representative of Synod to Manitoba Temperance Alliance.

Committee on Youth Work elected were: Stefan Gutormsson, Jon Eylands, Rev. E. Sigmar.

Synodical Lay Director for Christian Higher Education Year Appeal was re-elected, Herman Arason.

With the elections concluded the session proceeded to deliberate on remaining items of agenda.

5. Old People's Home

Article No. 6 of Betel's convention committee report was reopened for discussion on a recorded majority vote.

Motion that Article Six be deleted from Betel's convention committee report, was adopted.

Motion that the convention urge the Betel Committee to investigate and study the possibilities of improving and extending the physical facilities for hospital care of the Betel residents. Adopted.

The following motion was adopted by the convention: We would urge upon the Betel Committee observance of the rule that only applicants in reasonably good health for their age be accepted as residents.

Motion that the report for revision of the by-laws (Sessional Papers No. 20) be studied seriatim, was adopted.

The first part of Article One was deleted. The remaining Articles, after adoption seriatim, were adopted as a whole.

(Sessional Papers No. 21)

Mrs. S. Sigurgeirson presented the report on Temperance.

Motion to consider report seriatim. Adopted.

Article One was adopted by a rising vote.

Articles two three and five were adopted.

Article four was adopted with deletion of the word "four". The report was then adopted as a whole.

Motion to add the following supplementary item to Temperance report was adopted: That some parts of the report be published in the Parish Messenger.

(Sessional Papers No. 22)

3. Forums on Faith and Doctrine

The report was presented by Rev. S. J. Sigurgeirson.

Motion to receive the report as presented, was adopted.

(Sessional Papers No. 23)

10. Finances

The committee report on finance was presented by G. F. Gislason.

Motion to consider the report seriatim, was adopted. After adoption seriatim the report was adopted as a whole.

Motion to elect Rev. Guttormsson as representative to United Temperance Movement in Minnesota and North Dakota, was adopted.

(Sessional Papers No. 24)

1. Resolutions and Greetings

The report of Resolutions Committee was presented by Rev. Eylands.

Article one was adopted by a rising vote. After adoption seriatim, the report was adopted as a whole.

Motion that the Secretary be instructed to write a letter of condolence to the children of the late Mrs. B. B. Jonsson. Adopted.

Motion that individual congregation be requested to allocate their gifts to "Chey" for specific institutions and when not so designated that the Executive be empowered to allocate said monies. Adopted.

The motion to confine the dates of the convention to the same week, whenever possible, was adopted.

Motion to empower the Executive to procure Editors

for the "Sameiningin" and the "Parish Messenger", was adopted.

11. Unfinished Business

Motion to empower the Executive to attend to all unfinished business of the convention, was adopted.

The Executive was empowered to accept the forthcoming invitation from the Minneota Parish, to hold the convention in Minneota, Minn., in 1952.

The Executive was instructed by motion to set the Synodical apportionment for the coming year. Adopted.

Following the motion for closing of convention, President Fafnis read psalm one and offered prayer. The Sixty-Seventh Annual Convention of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America was declared closed at 12.35 past noon, by the President.

S. J. SIGURGEIRSON,
Secretary of Synod.

Report

Sessional Papers No. 1

OFFICERS, MINISTERS AND CONGREGATIONS OF SYNOD

Officers

Honorary Patron: The Most Reverend Sigurgeir Sigurdson,
Bishop of Iceland.
Honorary President: Rev. Kristinn K. Olafson, Sharon, Wis.
Honorary Life Members: Rev. R. Marteinson, D.D., and Mrs.
Ingunn Marteinson, Winnipeg, Man.
President: Rev. Egill H. Fafnis, Mountain, N. Dak.
Secretary and Statistician: Rev. S. J. Sigurgeirson, Foam
Lake, Sask.
Treasurer: Mr. N. O. Bardal, Winnipeg, Man.

Ministers

Rev. Runolfur Marteinson, D.D., Winnipeg, Man.
Rev. Guttormur Guttormsson, Minneota, Minn.
Rev. Sigurður S. Christopherson, Winnipeg, Man.
Rev. Haraldur Sigmar, D.D., Blaine, Wash.
Rev. Sigurður Olafsson, Selkirk, Man.
Rev. Valdimar J. Eylands, Winnipeg, Man.
Rev. Egill H. Fafnis, Mountain, N. Dak.
Rev. Guðmundur P. Johnson, Bellingham, Wash.
Rev. Harald S. Sigmar, Gimli, Man.
Rev. Skuli J. Sigurgeirson, Foam Lake, Sask.
Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, Seattle, Wash.
Rev. Johann Fredriksson, Lundar, Man.

Congregations

Arborg-Riverton Parish:—Ardals, Breiðuvíkur, Bræðra,
Geysir and Viðir Congregations.
Argyle Parish:—Frelsis, Frikirkju, Glenboro and Immanuel
Congregations.
Blaine Parish: Blaine and Þrenningar Congregations.
Churchbridge Parish:—Concordia, Lögbergs and Þingvall-
nýlendu Congregations.
Gimli Parish:—Arnes, Gimli, Mikley and Viðines Congrega-
tions.

Langruth Parish:—Herðubreiðar Congregation.

Lundar Parish:—Lundar Congregation.

Minneota Parish:—Lincoln, St. Páls and Vesturheims Congregations.

Mountain Parish:—Fjalla, Hallson, Péturs, Vídalins and Víkur Congregations.

Piney Parish:—Furudals Congregation.

Seattle Parish:—Hallgríms (Calvary) Congregation.

Selkirk Parish:—Selkirk Congregation. The pastor of the Selkirk Congregation serves also the Guðbrands Congregation.

Silver Bay Parish:—Betel Congregation.

Vancouver Parish:—Icelandic Lutheran Congregation.

Winnipeg Parish:—First Lutheran Congregation.

Winnipegosis Parish:—Winnipegosis Congregation.

Cavalier Parish:—United Lutheran Congregation.

Sessional Papers No. 2

Report of Credentials Committee

The credential reports show that the following delegates are entitled to the full privileges of the Sixty-Seventh Convention of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America, held in the Lundar Parish, Manitoba, June 21-25, 1951.

Ardal Congregation:—Páll Th. Stefanson, Sigurjón M. Johnsson, Eymundur Danielson.

Geysir Congregation:—V. Sigvaldason, F. P. Sigurdson.

Bræðra Congregation:—Marino Briem, H. J. Austman.

Glenboro Congregation:—G. J. Oleson, Gisli Bjornson.

Frikirkju Congregation:—Mrs. B. K. Jonsson, Mr. B. K. Jonsson.

Frelsis Congregation:—Bjorn Johnson.

Immanuel Congregation:—Miss Hansina Gunnlaugson, Mrs. A. Johnson.

Guðbrands Congregation:—Thorsteinn Gislason.

Gimli Congregation:—Mrs. J. B. Johnson, Mrs. G. Solmundson, Mrs. J. Stevens.

Víðines Congregation:—Mrs. G. Guttormson.

Lundar Congregation:—L. Danielson, Mrs. K. Palson.

- Vesturheims Congregation:—Mrs. H. B. Hofteig.
 St. Paul's Congregation:—Mrs. Gutt. Guttormsson, Mrs. Runa Anderson.
 Lincoln Congregation:—Miss Joan Gudmundson.
 Peter's Congregation:—A. S. Dinuson, Mrs. A. S. Dinuson.
 Víðalin Congregation:—Tom Einarson, Mrs. Tom Einarson.
 Víkur Congregation:—Skuli Stefanson, Mrs. S. Stefanson.
 Selkirk Congregation:—E. H. Vigfusson, Mrs. E. H. Vigfusson, Rudolph Trapp.
 Herðubreiðar Congregation:—John Valdimarson, Helgi Thompson.
 Vancouver Congregation:—G. F. Gislason, Mrs. K. Matthiason.
 First Lutheran Congregation:—Mrs. A. Blondal, Miss Mattie Halldorson, J. G. Johannson.
 United Lutheran Congregation:—Mrs. John Axdal.
 Betel Congregation:—Mrs. Halldora Clemenson.
 Lutheran Women's League:—Mrs. S. Sigurgeirson, Mrs. E. Jonasson.
 At Session of Synod, Lundar, Man., June 22, 1951:—S. J. Sigurgeirson, T. J. Gislason, B. K. Johnson.

Sessional Papers No. 3

Skýrsla forseta 1951

Háttvirta kirkjuping!

Náð Drottins og friður sé með yður öllum!

Síðan vér mættumst seinast á þingi í fyrra hefir margt breyst. Örlagaríkt ár hefir liðið hjá. Fréttir af styrjöldum og stríðsviðbúnaði þjóðanna eru aftur efst á blaði og fyrst í fréttum útvarpsins. Mann undrar hve skammt er á milli hersókna þjóðanna. Aftur hefir æskan orðið að búast her-týggjum, og svo að segja hvar sem maður fer, er maður félagi einhvers sem er að kveðja heima og sitt, til þess að standa á verði fyrir frelsi og hugsjón síns lands gegn óvinum lýðræðis og kristindóms. Veröldin er meir og meir að skiptast í tvo aðalhöpa, hinn kristna og andkristna hóp.

Kristindómur og kirkja verða því ennþá einu sinni að fylgja sonum sínum út á vígvöllinn og vera þeim þar sú stoð og styrkur og líkn, máttur sem heimurinn getur ekki gefið. Alt okkar við horf sem kristinn félagskapur má ekki

lengur vera bundinn smáhópa-viðhorfi, snertandi aðeins heimasveit eða heimagarð, heldur eygja sína stærri köllun, víðari sjóndeildarhring, alheims yfirsýn. Það er ekki ævinlega þægileg tilfinning er vér eygjum alt í einu hina stærri skyldu, og manni kann að hrjósa hugur við svo stóru ætlunarverki; en Guð þroskar okkur ætíð með einmitt þeim hætti. Þegar Jesús segir lærisveinunum að allar þjóðir heimsins skuli verða lærisveinar sínir, og býður þeim að fara sem vitni sín út til endimarka jarðarinnar; þá án efa hraus þeim hugur við slíkri skyldu, en í auðmýkt og með gleði og með sigri fóru þeir, sigrandi vegna Guðs. máttar sem þeim var gefinn. Seinna þegar Páll freistaðist til að stæra sig af hve mikið hafi unnist fyrir sig, leiðréttir hann sig skjótlega og segir: „Þó ekki ég, heldur Guðs máttur sem í mér er“. Hver er sá, sem getur sagt: „aðeins svona mikið er hægt að gera með Guðs hjálp?“ Nei, með Guð í starfi og hugsjónum er oss óhætt að eygja hin stærri takmörk og hugsjónir og trúa á sigur.

Kristinn félagsskapur á bergmál í hverju mannshjarta, því hann er sprottinn af þrá mannsins til að lesa og skilja Drottins rök og vilja. Faðir vor eilífur blés oss anda sínum í brjóst, og

Andi manns ætíð þráir Guð,
sem opnar faðminn hverju sínu barni

Faðir vor kærleiksrikur gefur oss soninn oss til bjargar; og kirkjan oss er skólinn þar sem vér fræðumst og þroskumst á leiðinni gegnum lífið:

„Vér deyjum ef þú ert ei ljós það og líf,
sem að lyftir oss duftinu frá“. (M. J.)

Án kristindóms og kirkju værum vér „duft og aska“. Já, sannarlega gefur kristindómurinn okkur fyllra líf hér og að eilífu. Gáum að; áður en vér fæddumst gaf hann forældrum okkar hugsjónir lífs og kærleika, sem gerðu heimili vor fögur og bjargandi; hann fyllti æsku okkar trúartrausti og ævintýrafegurð, og óf þetta inn í strengi sálar okkar. Stundum kunnum við að gleyma þessu, en svo koma einhver atvik fyrir oss í lífinu, og alt í einu verður sannleikur kristindómsins að lifandi, áriðandi, ómótstæðilegum virkileika. Lífsviðhorf okkar hefir eignast fyllri meiningu. Í

misvindi unglingsáranna heyrði Drottinn hikandi og óviss fótspor okkar og „lyfti augum vorum til stjarnanna“. Og þegar ást hjartans vaknaði, kendi kristindómurinn okkur göfgi kærleikans og helgi heimilisins, okkur til hamingju og sannrar gleði. Þegar hjarta vort seinna sat í skugga og fann kannske hvergi sól né yl þá dró kristindómurinn okkur til Krists: „ástvinar alls sem lifir“, og fyllti líf okkar von og trú um nýjan dag og nýja gleði. Þegar við hrösuðum á hjarni lífsins, þá var það kristindómurinn, sem laðandi og leiðandi kom til vor og studdi oss þar til vér náðum fótfestu. Fyrir alt þetta elskum við kristindóm og kirkju. Fyrir alt þetta viljum vér hjálpa kirkjunni, sem er hönd kristindómsins, til þess að blessa þannig annað líf. Og höndum og hjörtum tökum vér saman í kristnum félagsskap slíkum sem okkar, og skiljum gullvægi samstarfs Guðs og manns. Ekkert göfugra takmark er til.

Trúboð heima og erlendis:

Trúboð vort heima fyrir hefir aldrei verið umfangsmeira en einmitt nú. Svo margir prestar hafa þar verið í starfi og svo víða unnið. Skýrsla Trúboðsnefndar Synóduunnar mun skýra ykkur frá starfi og staðháttum er hún verður lögð fram. En geta vil ég þessa um heildarsvip starfsins. Að í Seattle er nú sjálfstæður söfnuður. Á sjö árum fyrir ötula leiðsögn hins unga og framtakssama prests þeirra og framúrskarandi fórnfýsi og gjafmildi safnaðarfólksins, hefir sá söfnuður risið frá því að meiri hluti prestslaunanna voru borguð af oss, til þess að hann nú ber allan straum af sinni prestsþjónustu. Auk þess hefir söfnuðurinn eignast prestshús, og þó nokkur skuld sé þar á kvíða þeir engu. Það er lifandi kristið starf þar í Seattle. Söfnuðurinn eignaðist á árinu vandað electronic organ, „Wurlitzer“. Í Blaine hefir sr. H. Sigmar, D.D. tekið köllun, nokkurn styrk veitum við því starfi. Síðan þau hjónin komu þar hefir söfnuðurinn eignast prestshús. Er það í fyrsta sinni. Leiðtogar safnaðarins eru hjartsýnir menn og konur, og sjá þroskandi framtíð fyrir starf safnaðarins. Þar í Blaine stendur íslenzka elliheimilið „Stafholt“, eitt af stórminnismerkjum íslenzks framtaks. Hér er einnig að blómgast kirkjustarf fyrir lifandi áhuga.

Í Vancouver, B.C., þar er enginn prestur sem stendur. Þeir hafa kallað prest, og með trúboðsstyrk okkar vonum við að hann fái komið vestur í sumar. Tillaga um styrk

Synóduinnar við að borga ferðakostnað hans mun verða lögð fram hér á þingi. Sá söfnuður hefir hvorki kirkju eða prestshús. Samt er það í láginni að efla einn hinn íslenzkasta söfnuð hér í álfi, og hafa góðir menn víðsvegar úr Canadafylkjum sett sér háleitt takmark í þessu efni. Koma sr. Eiríks Brynjólfssonar, sem vér þekkjum frá fyrri starfi meðal okkar, eflir vonir okkar, og vænti ég að þingið leggist drjúglega á árar þessu starfi til eflingar. Bæði kirkjubyggingarmál og prestshúsmál eru þar í hugum manna.

Saskatchewan. Frá nóvember 1949 til nóvember 1950 höfðum vér fastan prest er sat í Foam Lake starfandi á því heimatrúboðsstarfi. Er þar stór sveit kristins fólks er hafði næstum því gefið upp von um styrk frá okkur. En hefir nú fólk við starf þessa prests aftur leyft sér að dreyma um að þetta starf gæti lifnað við og orðið þáttur í lútersku kirkjunni og starfi hennar í hinu ágæta landi, Canada. Öll þessi trúboðssvæði ber oss að muna og hjálpa.

Erlendis hefir trúboð okkar breitt sig út á nýjan leik. Mun fulltrúi aðalkirkjudeildarinnar, Dr. Edwin H. Knudten, forseti New Jersey Synod, leggja þar fram glöggvari greinargerð. En eitt má nefna. Að á hinum nýja orustuvelli, Kóreu, kemur kirkja vor fram blessandi og bjargandi. Sumstaðar hafa trúboðar vorir orðið að hverfa frá starfi til þess að bjarga lífi sínu, en sumir hafa neitað að ganga af hólmi, og er erfitt að vita hversu framgangur þeirra starfs er. Bæn og fórn vor sem heimafyrir sitjum skyldi rísa til Drottins fyrir þessu starfi sem er eitt af sterkustu öflunum til að færa viltum heimi frið á sannkristilegan hátt, ekki með sverði heldur með bæn og kærleika. Söfnuðir vorir hafa margir hverjir fundið þetta. Því skýrslur féhirðis munu sýna, að aldrei höfum vér gefið jafnmikið til trúboðs eins og þetta ár. Og einnig þetta að fleiri söfnuðir hafa náð hugsjóninni sem við þráðum að ná, (the benevolent, income objective) heldur en nokkru sinni fyr. Hér einnig erum vér á framtíðarvegi fórnfúsrar kristni. Gerum Guði þökk.

Líknarstarf kirkjunnar. The World Action eða Lutheran World Relief er líknandi blessandi hönd okkar til þeirra, sem bággt eiga út um víða veröld. Kain sagði „á ég að gæta bróður míns“ og storkandi hljóp svo sína leið. Okkur hefir ævinlega fundist hann heldur lítilmenni fyrir þetta strákslega svar. Og alheims líknarstarf lútersku kirkjunnar hefir

verið á undanfórnum árum svar okkar við rödd Drottins í sál vorri er minnt hefir oss á neyð og nekt jarðneskra barna. Þessu sláum vér ekki saman við gjafir okkar til trúboðs heldur leggjum þær á metaskálarnar með öllum kristnum kirkjum, katólskum jafnt sem protestantískum til þess að líkna líðandi bróður. Dr. F. C. Fry, D.D. mun flytja okkur alheimsmynd þessa starfs næstkomandi sunnudagskvöld, Allar gjafir okkar félags til þessa, ganga gegnum Canada-sjóð þessa starfs.

Sameiningin:

Hið elzta íslenzka kirkjublað, sem gefið hefir verið út frá byrjun án nokkurs uppihalds nema að öðruhvoru hafa tveggja mánaða blöð verið sameinuð til þess að spara útgáfukostnað, hefir komið út á árinu undir ritstjórn sr. Rúnólfs Marteinsonar, D.D. Hefir hann sjálfur og margir aðrir bæði úr prestahópi og annara karla og kvenna skrifað í blaðið bæði til fróðleiks og leiðbeininga, og hefir gætt þar fjölbreytni, sem ætti að efla vinsældir blaðsins. Þökkum vér sr. Rúnólfi hans ágæta starf sem ritstjóra og hans brennandi áhuga fyrir velferð blaðsins. Fjárhagslega hefir blaðið þurft á stuðningi úr kirkjufélagssjóði að halda, því kaupendafjöldi er ekki nógur til þess að standa straum af útgáfukostnaði. Verðum vér að líkindum að styrkja blaðið meira í framtíðinni, ef kaupendum fækkar og jafnvel þó þeim fjölgi allmikið. 297 eintök af blaðinu eru send út mánaðarlega, og er talan til hinna ýmsu byggða þannig: Winnipegborg 48 eint., Árborg 32 eint., Gimli 18 eint., Glenboro 8 eint., Lundar 6 eint., Riverton 9 eint., Selkirk 14 ein. og einstaklingar hér og þar, svo sem 30 í Manitoba, Sask. 20, Alberta 2, British Columbia 13, N. Dak. 18, Minneota 16, Blaine 9, Bandaríkin, víðsvegar, 40, Ísland 11 og Noregur 1.

Parish Messenger:

Hefir komið út sem fjórðungsrit á árinu. Ritstjóri þess hefir verið sr. Eric H. Sigmar Stewardship Secretary of Synod. Talsvert á þriðja þúsund eintaka hafa verið prentuð af hverri útgáfu. Blaðinu hefir verið útbýtt við guðsþjónustur safnaðanna, og söfnuðurnir hafa borgað kostnað blaðsins í hlutfalli við blaðafjölda, sem sendur hefir verið til hvers eins safnaðar. Þessi fyrsta tilraun okkar með þannig lagað útbreiðslustarf og fræðslu á starfi okkar hefir verið vel tekið víðast hvar. Enda hefir blaðið flutt stuttar fregnir

og góðar af starfi ýmsra safnaða og laðandi greinar um kristin mál. Málsins vegna getur blaðið notið almennrar lesningar og það sem það flytur haft ágæt áhrif á stærri hóp kristins fólks. Þökkum vér séra Eric H. Sigmar hans ágæta starf á árinu sem ritstjóra og Stewardship skrifara félags vors.

Rit Jóns Bjarnasonar: Sú bók hefir selst nokkuð á árinu. En allmikið upplag er ennþá til. Þessi ágæta bók selst ekki nema við hjálpum til. Minningu höfundarins yrði þar með betur á lofti haldið.

Lutherans in Canada: Allstórt upplag er til af þessari bók, en óbundið, og því ekki mögulegt að selja hana. Talsverður kostnaður mundi vera við, þó ekki væri meira en að, innhefta bókina, en með því móti mundi hún vera á bóka-markaðinum og ná tilgangi sínum. Svona er hún sem gleymd. Eins og þingið minnst gaf höfundurinn Kirkjufélaginu handritið með það fyrir augum að ágóði af sölu þess gengi til sjóðs til byggingar sumarbúða æskulýðsskóla Bandalags lúterskra kvenna. Sómi væri það og gagn að vér mættum leysa betur fjálhagslega úr þessu máli.

Sálmabókin er ennþá til í nokkru upplagi bæði í betra bandi og hinu stífa bandi, en lengi mun upplagið ekki endast.

The Constitution of the Synod er uppseld. Einnig liggur á borði hjá oss breyting við hana sem sameinar nefndirnar tvær og samrýmir starfið og var af þeim er fram báru álitid að myndi hjálpa starfsaðferðum okkar, þar sem vér erum ekki stærri Synóda en vér erum. Að sjálfsögðu athugar þingið breytingartillöguna er tími leyfir. En vér þurfum að hafa upplag af grundvallarlögum félags vors, hvað sem öðru líður.

Gjörðabókin varð oss dýr vegna hækkandi prentkostnaðar og stærðar hennar. Varanlegt „record“ af gjörðum þingsins verður að vera til. Prentun bókarinnar hefir því verið nauðsynleg og er enn. En sem kostnaðarminnst ætti hun að vera.

Fræðslustarf:

Félag Sunnudagaskólakennara hélt vakningasamkomu við Sunrise Camp í lok júnímánaðar í fyrra. Allmargir sunnudagaskólakennarar sóttu mótið. Leiðbeinandi fyrirlestrar og samtalsfundir um margt varðandi kennslu og sunnudagaskólastarf var um hönd haft. Þetta er ennþá

byrjunarstarf á þessu sviði kristinnar fræðslu, og ef til vill ekki ennþá nógu vel þekkt, en þessar samkomur eru haldnar í öllum Synodum kirkjunnar og allir kennarar myndu hafa gott af að sækja þessar samkomur; því að hver er sá, sem ekki þarf að leita sér meiri þroska á Guðs vegum. Þetta sumar verða samkomurnar haldnar 7. og 8. júlí í Sunrise Camp. Skólar okkar eru þá úti og ættu því kennarar að eiga betra tækifæri á að njóta þessarar fræðslu.

Bandalag lúterskra kvenna starfrækti Sunrise Lutheran Camp á síðastliðnu sumri. Skýrsla þess félagsskapar mun verða flutt á þingi þessu. En hér vil ég enn einu sinni hvetja söfnuðina til þess að nota sér fræðslu og blessunarstarf þessa félagsskapar sérstaklega gegnum Sumarbúðastarfið. Hér er æskan samankomin. Þar eru hin gullvægustu tækifæri til þess að beina æskunni inn á starfssvið kirkjunnar. Þessi sumarmót eru ekki bara til uppléttingar fyrir kúlðaða æsku, heldur líka kristinn skóli. The Leadership training Camp. Fyrir fermda og eldri, á að vera kennaraskóli, og væri æskilegra að þeir sem það námskeið sækja, væru frekar eldri en yngri — ungt fólk. Forseti hefir reynt undanfarin ár að hjálpa og svo hafa margir fleiri prestar og konur gert. Ég vildi aðeins hvetja kirkjubingsgesti og söfnuði að byrja snemma á árinu að fræða æskuna um þetta fræðslutækifæri. Að sjálfsögðu flytjum vér B. L. K. þökk fyrir sitt ágæta starf.

Þá skal minnst þess, að framkvæmdarnefnd Kirkjufélagsins í samráði við fræðslumálanefnd U.L.C.A. skipulagði samtalsfundi í nokkrum prestaköllum Kirkjufélagsins með kennurum og foreldrum um leiðbeiningu og uppfærðslu æskunnar, 27. júní. Kallað var það „Teachers Clinic“. Rev. L. M. Reese og Miss G. Gillstrom, ásamt prestum hvers byggðarlags, leiðbeindu kennurum og foreldrum og svöruðu einnig spurningum um hvernig mætti best kenna börnum, hvort heldur heima eða í skóla. Mætt var á Langruth, Lundar, Gimli, Winnipeg og Mountain. Skiptu kennarar og foreldrar hundruðum, sem sóttu þessi mót. Finnst oss að þetta hafi verið ágætt spor í áttina til frekari hjálpar sunnudagaskólastarfi Kirkjufélagsins.

Fræðsla viðvirkjandi starfi og framkvæmdum Canadian Lutheran World Action var fólgin í LWA Rally í Winnipeg í Fyrstu lútersku kirkju. Lúterskar kirkjur Winnipegborgar áttu þar allar að mæta, en okkar hópur var stærstur og samskotin það kveld námu meir en 70.00 dollurum.

Skýrsla Stewardship Secretary, Rev. E. H. Sigmar, mun verða lögð fram á þinginu. En einmitt hann hefir lagt mikla rækt við að bera fram málefni evangelíums og benda söfnuðum á hvernig þeir geti eftt gjafmildi til kirkjunnar mál-efnis hjá söfnuðum sínum með því að skipuleggja heim-sóknir margra leiðtoga í safnaðarmálum. (Every Member Visitation).

Ungmennafélög:

Eitt ungmennafélag hefir verið stofnað á árinu. Var það í St. Páls söfnuði í Minneota. Hin önnur hafa starfað kirkjustarfi til góðs. En aftur vildi ég benda á, að ungmenningar, eins og vér áður höfðum, eru nauðsynleg til vakningar og til þess að rödd æskunnar hljómi meir í kirkjustarfi voru. Gæti þingið ekki fundið leiðir til hjálpar?

Safnaðarstarf:

Hin ýmsu prestaköll og söfnuðir, sem ennþá hafa ekki verið nefnd, eru prestaköllin, sem njóta fastrar prestsstarfsemi árið um kring og standast straum af starfi án trúboðsstyrks. Þar má fyrst nefna Árborg-Riverton prestakall. Þar er prestslaust með öllu sem stendur. Þó hefir sr. Sigurður Ólafsson í Selkirk brugðist vel við og með öðrum störfum veitt þar nokkra þjónustu, og oft kallaður til jarðarfara. Sr. H. S. Sigmar, síðan hann kom til Gimli, hefir og flutt messur á nokkrum stöðum í prestakallinu. En þetta er ónóg. Vonandi verða möguleikar til þess að finna prest til starfs einnig þar.

Selkirk-söfnuður hefir aukist á árinu við hið enska starf sem þar hefir blómgastr. Er það vegna framsýni prest og annara er sívakandi eru um eflingu kristins starfs þar í borg.

Fyrsti lúterski söfnuður í Winnipeg hófst handa á árinu og keypti nýtt hús handa presti sínum. Er það hið vandaðasta. Er þetta vottur þess, að söfnuðurinn metur prest sinn og vill að hann njóti þess heimilis og húsakosts er til sóma sé prestakallinu.

Gimli-söfnuður keypti nýtt og mjög vandað hús handa hinum nýja presti sínum sr. Haraldi S. Sigmar. Einnig þeir hafa reynst stórstígir á árinu.

Það er gamall siður að líta svo á, að presturinn sé leiðtogi og forustumaður síns safnaðar eða prestakalls. Eðlilega leggja þá leið sína til hans þeir ókunnugir sem starfi

kirkjunnar og kristins félagsskapar vilja kynnast. Fjöldi fólks leggur leið sína heim á prestheimilin til giftinga, skirna, ráðstafana um jarðarfarir og fleira. Gestkvæmt mun vera á öllum prestsheimilum okkar Kirkjufélags. Opið skyldi standa hús hins kristna leiðtoga fyrir hverjum sem að garði ber. Risna og gestrisni á að haldast í hendur á heimili hans. Það ætti að vera metnaðarmál safnaða og prestakalla að heimili leiðtogans þeirra, safnaðarheimilið, þar sem presturinn dvelur, sé til sóma þeim sem eiga.

Lundar-söfnuður hefir fegrað og prýtt hús síns prests, svo að hið bezta er.

Vidalín-söfnuður í N. Dakota eignaðist fyrir minningargjafir nýtt Hammond orgel á árinu. Eru slík orgel lyftistöng í músik-lífi safnaðarins, og vegna þess hvernig þau eru byggð þola þau vetrarfrostin jafnvel sem sumarhitana, og kemur það sér vel þar sem ekki eru alltaf hitaðar kirkjur árið um kring. — Ýmsir aðrir söfnuðir hafa prýtt kirkjur sínar og fegrað.

Elliheimilin:

Betelnefndin leggur fram skýrslu sína hér á þingi samkvæmt venju. Sýnir hún ennþá hversu ónóg elliheimilaplássin eru til þess að mæta eftirspurninni. Heimilið, undir stjórn núverandi forstöðukonu, Mrs. Tallman, nýtur kærleiks og virðingar okkar allra. En gleyma megum vér aldrei, að gjafir okkar og bænir fyrir heimili og gestum þess og fólki verða stöðugt að streyma frá oss sjálfum svo að blessunarstarf þess vari með árunum.

Skýrsla Elliheimilisins Borg hefir ekki komið til þings. En geta vil ég þess, sem kunnugur heimaprestur þar, að heimilið er að heita má fullskipað. Um 36 manns geta þar dvalið. Nokkur önnur aðferð við heimilisrekstur á sér þar stað heldur en á Betel. Forstöðukonan, Miss Ólína Paulson, fer þar með aðalvöld, en stjórnarnefndin kemur saman til funda mánaðarlega og annast margt um heimilið. Heimilið var nú fyrir skemmstu fullgert að utan. Var það snjóhvít steinhúðun sem gerð var. Sést nú margar mílur vegar hið hvíta hús sólsetursbarnanna. Tré og runnar og grasfletir eru nú að vaxa til fegurðar umhverfis bygginguna. Próffessor Greeves frá búnaðarháskóla ríkisins leggur þar ráð á og hinn alþekti gróðrarstöðvarmaður Kristján Geir sér um framkvæmdir. Tveir nýir nefndarmenn voru kosnir á þessu ári, eru það þeir Chris. Guðmundsson og Joe Northfield.

Þetta unga heimili í Bandaríkjunum þarf á gjöfum ykkar og bænum að halda. Og vinir þess víðsvegar mega minnst þess, að hið enska nafn þess er Pioneer Memorial Home.

Prestarnir:

Enn er oss þörf fleiri presta til starfsins. Mun skýrsla skrifara gefa þar nákvæmari upplýsingar. Í byrjun september 1950 setti ég í embætti á Lundar sr. Jóhann Fredricksson. Flutti hann þá um svipað leyti til Lundar og hefir þjónað þar síðan, með auknum vinsældum og sérstakri alúð. Erum vér í dag gestir þessa prestakalls og hans, og samgleðjumst söfnuði og presti í giftusamlegu starfi þeirra. Sr. Jóhann þjónar einnig í Churchbridge prestakalli.

Þegar forseti heimsótti Kyrrahafsströndina í vetur setti hann í embætti sunnudaginn 4. febrúar í Blaine söfnuði sr. Harald S. Sigmar, D.D. eftir nokkurt hlé á starfi, því alltaf var hann kallaður til starfs, þótt hann ætti að hvíla sig. Hefir nú sá bróðir vor aftur tekið fast starf, og væntum vér honum heilsu og krafta svo að hann geti enn lengi unnið kirkju Krists ómetanlegt starf.

Hinn 13. júní s.l. setti forseti í embætti sem fastan prest sr. Harald S. Sigmar í Gimli prestakalli, að Gimli. Viðstaddir og þátttakendur í athöfninni voru sr. R. Marteinsson, sr. V. J. Eylands og séra E. H. Sigmar. Þjónar sr. Haraldur Mikley, Árnes, Gimli og Víðinessöfnuðum, einnig Elliheimilinu Betel. Var á því haldin sérstök athöfn, því þar eru meir en sextíu manns í söfnuði.

Í fyrirasumar sagði sr. B. A. Bjarnason prestur í Árborg-Riverton prestakalli upp söfnuðum sínum. Leystu þeir hann út með gjöfum, áður en vetur gekk í garð og flutti hann með fjölskyldu sína til Pueblo Colo. Þar tókst hann á hendur Missions starf fyrir U.L.C.A. undir handarjaðri Rocky Mountain Synod. Hefir hann nú lausnarbréf frá Synódu vorri, og hefir verið tekinn inn í Rocky Mountain Synod. Trúlega vann bróðir vor Bjarni meðan hann var hjá oss. Vígður 1934, í Selkirk. Hann þjónaði fyrst á nokkrum stöðum sem trúboðsprestur, en svo sem fastaprestur á Gimli og Árborg. Skrifari Kirkjufélagsins var hann frá 1947 og þar til hann fór. Hans sérstæða menntun á því starfi var oss mikils virði í allri skrifinsku nútímans. Einnig var hann skrifari og féhirðir Trúboðsnefndarinnar þessi sömu ár. Við starfi hans sem skrifari tók sr. Skúli Sigur-

geirsson, en skrifaraembætti Trúboðsnefndar tók sr. V. J. Eylands.

Sr. Eric H. Sigmar sagði upp söfnuðum sínum í Argyle um nýárið og tók köllun Seattle-safnaðar (Clavary Church). Flytur hann þangað í júlímánuði. Er það ágætt, að Ströndin heldur áfram að hafa tvo ágæta presta — Sigmarana, og óskum vér Eric og söfnuði hans blessunar Drottins í starfi framvegis. Við þennan flutning varð Argyle prestslaust. En nú þegar hafa þeir sent köllun til Magnúsar Már Lárussonar prests og kennara í Reykjavík. Hvort hann tekur kölluninni er ekki enn vitað.

Stud. theol. Stefán Guttormsson hefir verið kallaður þegar til prests í hinum nýja söfnuði í Cavalier, N. Dakota. Hann á aðeins eitt ár eftir af námi sínu og mun að því loknu vígjast til Cavalier. Bætist okkur þar ágætur ungur starfsmaður. Trúboðssjóðsstyrk mun sá söfnuður þurfa að einhverju leyti til að byrja með, og veit ég að Kirkjufélag vort muni svo veita sem þörf krefst.

Sr. Guðmundur P. Johnson er ennþá við veraldleg störf, en þráir þó að geta unnið fyrir kirkju okkar sem prestur ef mögulegt væri.

Sr. Skúli Sigurgeirsson hefir aðeins haft lausabjónustu með höndum í Saskatchewan, og setið í Foam Lake síðan fyrir jól. Fer það ekki vel að nýtur prestur finni ekki starfsvið þar sem hann getur notið sín fyllilega og kirkjan eflst við starf hans. Má vera að þingið finni leiðir til þess að bæta úr þessu.

Sr. Octavius Thorláksson er, að ég hygg, ekki við prestsstarf bundinn; hann dvelur í Berkeley Calif.

Á starfi og kringumstæðum hinna annara presta okkar hefir ekki orðið breyting frá því í fyrra.

Æðri menntun: (Christian Higher Education Year)

Árið 1950 og árið 1951 hafa í kirkju okkar verið sem tími er vér leggjum okkur fram um að efla æðri skóla kirkjunnar og gefa þeim betri og ágætari heimili og áhöld til þess að mennta æsku vora. Í fyrra á þingi fólum vér framkvæmdarnefnd að annast þessa hugsjón. Í nafni Kirkjufélagsins heimsóttu forseti og stúdent S. Guttormsson Minneota prestakallið. Voru undirtektirnar hinar beztu. Seinna heimsótti forseti Argyle Parish og ásamt presti í Argyle og Hr. Hermann Arason, sem var kosinn Lay Director á seinasta þingi, skýrðum vér málefnið og fengum góða á-

heyrn. Þá einnig heimsóttum við Langruth söfnuð, þessir þrimenningar, og var vel tekið. Til Árborg og Riverton fór-
um vér skömmu áður, en prestur þess prestakalls hvarf
þaðan. Var áheyrn ágæt en söfnun ekki skipulögð þá fylli-
lega svo sem skyldi. Ætluðum vér aftur að koma en varð
ekki úr og er þar enn framundan mikið starf um þessa
hugsun.

Í febrúar heimsótti forseti söfnuðina í Vancouver, B.C.,
Blaine, Wash. og Seattle, Wash., í erindum Synóðunnar.
Voru samkomurnar ágætlega sóttar og munu söfnuðir þessir
leggja hér til góðan skerf. En sem stendur er prestslaust í
Vancouver, og í Seattle hefir verið prestslaust síðan í apríl
og sr. H. Sigmar aðeins að setja sig niður í Blaine og hafa
því ekki komið fullnaðar skýrslur frá þessum plássum.
Enn eru eftir mörg prestaköll Kirkjufélagsins og veit ég
að ráðstafanir verða gerðar til þess að safna þeirra styrk
um þessi málefni svo sem vera ber.

Gjafir sem sendar hafa verið til aðalféhirðis eru þessar:

Minneota Parish	\$800.00
Langruth Congregation	411.00
Argyle Parish	305.00
Calvary Congregation	50.00
Trinity Congregation	10.00
Guðbrands Congregation	5.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,581.00

Einum skóla hefir þegar verið sent nokkuð af gjöfinni.
Er það Northwestern Lutheran Seminary, Minneapolis, þar
sem S. Guttormsson lýkur námi næsta vor. Geta má þess,
að þetta starf er ekki á kostnað Kirkjufélagsins heldur
eðlilega ber sinn eigin kostnað.

Minningarsjóður presta: (Pastor's Memorial Fund).

Þetta er hinn eini sjóður Kirkjufélagsins, sem veita má
úr styrk til eflingar starfi eða hugsjónum félagsskapar vors.
Samskot við þingsetningarguðsþjónustu eru rétt að segja
eina tekjulind hans. Þyrftum vér að minna oftár á sjóðinn
en vér gerum, svo að hann aukist og verði oss sönn lyfti-
stöng. Á árinu veittum vér prestaskóla-nemanda, Stefáni
Guttormssyni, nokkurn styrk úr sjóðnum og sjáið þér því
að hér er starfandi sjóður að verki.

Eignageymsla Kirkjufélagsins:

Eðlilega getur ekki 66 ára félagsskapur hjá því komist að eiga nokkra búslóð. Eru það þá sérstaklega bóka- og rita-afgangar, sem það hefir látið prenta. Fyrirferðamestir munu vera árgangar „Sameiningarinnar“, svo og bækur svo sem „Ben Hur“, „Minningarrit Lutherans in Canada“, „Rit og ræður“, „Sálmabókin“ o. fl. Sem stendur er þessi forði geymdur á ýmsum stöðum í Winnipeg. Slíkt er ekki gott, og reynir á þolinmæði þeirra er ljá því húsaskjól. Vil ég benda Kirkjufélaginu á, hvort ekki sé nú tími til kominn að leigja húsrúm, þar sem á einn stað mætti safna eignum félagsins, hafa að þeim greiðan aðgang, og hagræða svo að auðvelt væri um eignakönnun og yfirlit, og þyrfti því þessi staður að vera í nálægð hans.

Minning:

Þetta ár lézt eftir langvarandi vanheilsu, ekkjufrú Ingiríður Jónsson, 774 Victor Street, Winnipeg, Man. Fyrir okkur sem áttum tækifæri að njóta forustuhæfileika manns hennar, er hann var forseti Kirkjufélags vors og prestur með ágætum, finnst nú, er hún, sem var hans önnur hönd, er til hvíldar gengin, að þar sé nú óþægilega hljótt í þeim ranni. er áður brann blys prestsheimilisins, sem bezt mátti vera. Hennar hefir verið minnst að verðugu í blöðunum, en mér finnst að Kirkjufélag vort, þar sem hún sat í forsæti með manni sínum, ætti sérstaklega að minnast hennar nú, svo að sæmandi væri. Frú Ingibjörg stóð við hlið mannsins í öllu kristnu starfi, en ekki að baki; það megum vér vel muna.

Þetta yfirlit félagsskapar vors legg ég fyrir ykkur til leiðbeiningar við framtíðarákvarðanir um komandi starfsár. Aðrar skýrslur embættismanna og nefnda munu gjöra gleggri grein starfsins á hinum sérstöku sviðum. Við athugun þeirra allra vona ég, að þér fáið svo fullkomna mynd af viðhorfi starfsins, að þér getið tekið ákvarðanir og sett ykkur takmörk um að ná, sem gangi ekki fram hjá tækifærunum, heldur grípi þau, kirkjunni til blessunar og Guði til dýrðar. Til þess erum vér hér komin.

Biðjum Guð um viturt hjarta. Amen.

E. H. FÁFNIS, forseti

Report of the Secretary, 1951

Mr. President and Honored Delegates:

Whereas the report of the President covers or depicts the overall work of the Synod in its different phases, the report of the Secretary is purely statistical. It is his duty to show with comparative figures how the Lord's work has fared during the last twelve months but, this he cannot do accurately if the parochial reports are not forthcoming from the congregations. And as some congregations have not forwarded reports for several years, the statistical survey now presented to this convention, for the year ending December 31, 1950, is therefore not a factual presentation of the current state of affairs in the Synod, generally speaking.

There were no parochial reports received from twelve congregations. We pray that all congregations will send reports next year.

The number of congregations on the roll is thirty-eight. Whereas a new name appeared on the congregational roll in 1950, an old name disappeared. While the United Lutheran congregation of Cavalier, N. Dak., was welcomed into the fold at the last convention, the Luther congregation (in the Lunder Parish) has united with the congregation of Lunder and, is no more.

The Ministerial roll has also undergone some changes. We regret that the former secretary, the Rev. B. A. Bjarnason, for reasons of health, had to leave this part of the country and is now serving in the Rocky Mountain Synod at Pueblo, Colorado. May the Lord bless him and his family in their new home and, we pray that he will speedily regain his health; but with the addition of the Rev. Johann Fredriksson to the roll, the number of ministers remains at thirteen or the same as last year. Eight pastors are serving permanently in independent and mission parishes. This number is the same as a year ago. Twelve congregations are without permanent or regular ministerial services.

According to the available figures the total or baptized

membership is 7,453; confirmed membership 5,043; communing membership 1,840. There is a slight increase in the baptized and confirmed membership while the number of communicants is about the same.

In the child membership roll there were 281 accessions by baptism and 14 otherwise, making a total of 295, while transfers by confirmation and losses were 158. The gain in child membership is 137, an increase of 80 over last year. In the adult membership there were 179 accessions by confirmation, 32 by certificate and three by restoration, a total of 214, while the losses by death were 57, by certificate 16, and otherwise 93. The gain is 48, an increase of 36 over the previous year.

Last year there were 29 Sunday Schools with a staff of 186 but now there are 26 Sunday Schools with a staff of 181. The present enrolment is 1,382, 13 less than a year ago. The Nursery roll has 89 children with eight teachers. Last year the enrolment was 114. There are three vacation church schools with 51 pupils and seven teachers.

The group organizations include two men's organizations with a membership of 70; 34 women's societies with 1,095 members; three mixed groups with 47 members and seven young people's organizations with 228 members. The men's and mixed groups have lost 37 members while the women's organizations have gained 58 members and the young people's groups have increased their enrolment by 37.

Church buildings are valued at \$191,350; parsonages \$38,673; schools or parish houses \$3,500; other property \$18,875, and endowments of \$2,903. The total valuation being \$255,301. The indebtedness is \$3,440.

The last section of this report deals with the expenditures. Current expenses amounted to \$40,275; unusual expenses were \$10,857, making a total of \$51,132. This is an increase of \$1,677 over last year. The total unapportioned or appropriated benevolence is \$7,858, an increase of \$626 during the year. The total expenditures are \$58,990, which is \$2,303 more than last year.

S. J. SIGURGEIRSON,
Secretary of Synod.

Treasurer's Report

Icelandic Evangelical Synod of America

CASH ACCOUNT

Receipts

Dues and Special Receipts	\$1,716.00
Hymnal Sales	264.75
Year Book Sales	100.00
Parish Messenger	340.00
Miscellaneous	93.05
Wynyard Property Balance	3.00
Cavalier Church Bldg. Fund Offering	75.00
Pastors' Memorial	45.14
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	\$2,636.94

Causes

ULCA Apportionment	\$2,204.20
Lutheran World Action	869.74
CHEY	1,590.50
	<hr/>
	\$7,301.38
Balance forwarded from June 1950	3,190.60

Disbursements

General Fund	\$ 734.82
Amortization Leslie Property	
Including insurance	70.00
Common Service Hymnals	244.88
Printing Year Book	374.56
Misc., Phones, Stationery, Printing, etc.	203.94
Parish Messenger	338.63
To ULCA, New York	3,500.00
To ULCA for LWA	730.97
To CHEY	1,581.50
Sask. Field	300.00
Pastors' Memorial Fund to	
Stefan Guttormson	250.00
Cavalier Church Building Fund	75.00
Manitoba Temperance Alliance	25.00
Sameiningin	310.00

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	\$8,739.30
Balance on Hand June 12, 1950	1,752.68

Total \$10,491.98

\$10,491.98

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FUNDS

General Fund	Receipts \$	Disbursements \$	Dr. \$	Cr. \$
Synod Dues received.....				
Premium U.S. Funds.....				
Proceeds from Sale of Wynyard Property.....	1,812.05			
Miscellaneous Expenses.....		228.94		
Leslie Property Payments (including insurance).....		70.00		
Cavalier Church Building Fund.....	75.00	75.00		
General Disbursements (\$734.82) (\$310.00).....		1,044.82		
1950 Credit Balance, forward.....	1,771.78			
	<u>3,658.83</u>	<u>1,418.76</u>		2,240.07

Hymnals and Year Book

Hymnals.....	264.75	
Year Book.....	100.00	
Printing and Purchases.....		1,317.86
Deficit from 1950 (\$1,063.17).....		

Publications

Parish Messenger Receipts.....	340.00	
Parish Messenger Expenses.....		463.41
Deficit from 1950 (\$464.78).....		
J.B. Book (no receipts).....		270.79
Deficit from 1950 (\$270.79).....		
Lutherans in Canada (no receipts).....		182.73
Deficit from 1950 (\$182.73).....		

(OVER)

Funds and Causes

Pastors' Memorial Fund	45.14	250.00	716.44
Credit Balance 1950 (\$921.30)			19.00
CHEY	1,590.50	1,581.50	
Credit Balance 1950 (\$10.00)			
ULCA Apportionment	2,204.20		
Forwarded New York \$3,500.00		3,800.00	495.71
Applied Saskatchewan Field \$300.00			
Credit Balance 1950 (\$2,091.51)	869.74	730.97	516.25
Lutheran World Action			
Forwarded New York			
Credit Balance 1950 (\$377.48)			
Balance on Hand June 12, 1951 (\$1,752.68)		<u>2,234.79</u>	<u>3,987.47</u>
		1,752.68	
		<u>3,987.47</u>	<u>3,987.47</u>

Audited and signed by
F. THORDARSON

N. O. BARDAL,
Treasurer.

ADDITIONAL RECEIPTS

General Synod Fund	\$ 160.00
Missions and Benevolence	40.00
Parish Messenger	5.00
Year Book	6.00
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 211.00</u>
Balance on Hand June 12th	\$1,752.68
Balance June 21, 1951	<u>\$1,963.68</u>

LATE PAYMENTS

Received from	Synod	ULCA	LWA	PM
Grund	\$		\$40.00	\$ 5.00
Concordia	30.00			
Lincoln	22.00	29.00		10.00
Melankton	50.00			
Hallson	12.00	35.00		10.00
Glenboro Ladies' Aid		30.00		
Breidavikur (Hnausa)	21.00			

All who paid Synod dues have also paid Year Books.

Report of the Missions Committee 1951

During the sixty-six consecutive conventions of the Icelandic Synod, the Home Mission program has always occupied a very prominent part of the agenda, and rightly so. During these many decades much water has run under many bridges, many severe storms have broken upon this old world, the personnel of our congregations, and the leadership of our Synod have naturally changed, but the problems of our home mission activities remain with us, and are now perhaps more acute than ever. In the early days the constituency of our Synod was compactly gathered in certain well defined areas; now it is scattered far and wide. Formerly our people had a strong group consciousness, and intermarriages with people of other faiths and nationalities were comparatively rare; now, on the other hand, marriages where both the contracting parties are of Icelandic extraction are rather exceptional. Formerly, practically all social and religious intercourse among our people was carried on in the Icelandic language; now the English language is used predominantly in most of our congregations. This is not being said in a voice of lamentation, the natural law of assimilation has simply been at work. It means that we are being absorbed into the current of the national life faster than many other groups, which due to their larger numbers, or greater tenacity in clinging to their peculiar nationalistic traits have resisted the process of absorption with greater strength and determination than we have. But it certainly has increased manyfold the problems of our Home Mission program, and made necessary the expansion of its scope. It became gradually apparent, ever since the first World War, that our Synod was, by itself unable to cope with this increasingly difficult situation. We lacked the men and the means to carry on our Home Missions program with anything like the vigor and the efficiency which were necessary. This situation continued to grow worse year by year, until our Synod, after many years of deliberation, and with certain fears and misgivings, allowed its continually de-

creasing strength to be reinforced by the brethren of the United Lutheran Church in America. But our experience in this fellowship has completely removed these early fears and misgivings. Our synodical sovereignty has not been infringed upon, our properties have not been tampered with. In this larger fellowship our vision has been enlarged, our hands strengthened, and our faith in our destiny as a Synod greatly increased. We have been the recipients of great moral and financial assistance without any conditions being attached, other than our own sense of moral responsibility in performing our part in our cooperation with the United Lutheran Church. This our sense of responsibility and appreciation of our duty in this cooperative effort is not yet fully aroused among our congregations, and leaves room for much improvement, which we however see coming surely if slowly. At this point it is obvious that we have gained far more from the ULCA than we have given. They have helped us to establish new missions, and maintain parishes which previously were on the verge of disintegration. They have helped us to build or purchase parsonages, and they have educated some of our pastors, and will continue to aid young men who offer themselves for the ministry in our Synod.

When our synodical constitution was revised in order to conform more closely to the standard constitutions of Synods affiliated with the United Lutheran Church in America, a special Synodical Home Missions Committee was created, charged specifically with the supervision and maintenance of the Home Missions work of the Synod, in cooperation with the Executive Board of the Synod, and the Board of American Missions. Apart from being a counterpart of similar Committees in the other synods of the United Lutheran Church, our Synod felt the paramount need of such a Committee, a small compact body, which could deal quickly with day to day problems that might arise on our missions fields, and at the same time ease the burden of the larger and more widely scattered Executive Committee. During the past year, this your Missions Committee has tried to discharge its duties to the best of its ability, which of course, is nothing praiseworthy. We have had many meetings, our correspondence with officials of the ULCA, and missionaries on the field constitutes a large folio, but unfortunately, we can not boast of any great accomplish-

ments. The Committee was handicapped from the beginning in losing its able and efficient Secretary, the Rev. B. A. Bjarnason, who early in the year was forced to tender his resignation to the Arborg-Riverton Parish, and at the same time relinquish his duties as the Secretary of the Committee. Due to ill health, he was advised by his physician to move to a warmer climate, and is now serving a mission congregation in the City of Pueblo in Colorado. We are happy to report that his health is much improved, and as was expected, he is reported to be doing very good work in the new field. Our loss has been their gain. The Committee was further handicapped due to the prolonged illness this winter of its Chairman, the venerable Dr. Runolfur Marteinsson, who however, with characteristic energy and devotion to duty, carried on considerable correspondence from his sick bed, and held Committee meetings in his home, when he should have been in bed. It is a source of great joy to us all that Dr. Marteinsson is now much improved in health, and is able to be with us, at this convention.

The missions of the Synod which were in operation a year ago, and on which this Committee then submitted reports, have been maintained during this year, and some of these have made notable progress.

The Calvary Lutheran Church of Seattle, Washington, under the energetic leadership of Pastor Harald S. Sigmar since July 1943, attained self support on January 1st, 1951, and thus becomes our first mission to attain self support. Technically, however, it will be considered a mission congregation, until a church extension loan has been fully paid to the Board of American Missions. As is already common knowledge among us, Pastor Harald Sigmar has assumed charge of the Gimli Parish, while his younger brother, Rev. Eric H. Sigmar of Glenboro has accepted a call to Calvary, and will move to Seattle immediately after this convention.

The Blaine Lutheran Church, Blaine, Washington, once an independent parish together with Point Roberts, has now for some years, been receiving mission aid. This parish was vacant from the time of Rev. Arthur Hanson's resignation about a year ago, until January 1st, 1951, when Dr. Haraldur Sigmar accepted their call and moved unto the field. A five-room cottage to be used as a manse has been purchased by this congregation and is said to be conveniently located

near the church. Prior to their securing a permanent minister, this congregation had, during the vacancy, been regularly supplied by the Sigmars, father and son, from Seattle.

The Icelandic congregation at Vancouver, B.C., vacant since Dr. Sigmar's resignation about a year ago, has also been supplied by Dr. Sigmar, and his son, Rev. Harald Sigmar, more or less regularly during the year. This congregation is still worshipping in rented quarters, namely the Danish Church of Vancouver. But according to information which has recently reached us, this congregation has now purchased a lot in a good location, and the erection of a church is under consideration. On December 14th, 1950, this congregation extended a formal call, subject to the approval of our Home Missions Committee, and the endorsement of the Board of American Missions, to the Reverend Eirikur Brynjolfsson, of Utskalar, Iceland. On the 14th of April last, we were notified by the Secretary of the Vancouver congregation, that Rev. Brynjolfsson had decided to accept their call, subject to arrangements which had yet to be made concerning his transportation from Iceland to Vancouver. In the same communication we were notified of a resolution passed by the congregation to the effect that they apply for \$500.00 travelling expense assistance grant from our Synod, through the mediation of the Missions Committee, and that they ask us also, to apply on their behalf for a like amount for the same purpose to the Board of American Missions. It appears that the travelling expense connected with getting this family of two adults and a minor child from Iceland to Vancouver, will be approximately \$900.00. The Missions Committee is proposing to meet this expense by splitting it three ways: The congregation in Vancouver and other interested friends there shall raise \$300.00. We have applied to the Board of American Missions to furnish \$300.00, and we shall, at this convention, ask the Icelandic Synod to allocate the remaining \$300.00 for the purpose of bringing Pastor Brynjolfsson here. We have submitted this proposition to the Executive Committee of the Synod, and found their reaction favourable. But only the Synod has the authority to make the required grant. The application for salary aid, in favor of Pastor Brynjolfsson, together with this request for \$300.00 travelling aid grant, has gone forth

to the Board of American Missions under date of May 28th, and will be dealt with by the Board at its regular meeting the latter part of this month. We can only hope for a favourable decision, and that the Vancouver congregation may in due time obtain the services of the minister of their choice.

In the Proceedings of the 66th Annual Convention, held a year ago, there is a very extensive report submitted by the Secretary on the Foam Lake-Wynyard Mission field in Saskatchewan; there is also another comprehensive report submitted by the missionary on the field, the Rev. Skuli J. Sigurgeirsson. In the former report we have sort of a history of this once prosperous parish, and also the reasons stated for the new attempt at its revival; in the latter report we are appraised of the actual situation as discovered by the missionary, and given to understand that a revival of Lutheran work in this vast territory, will at best be a slow and costly process, if possible at all.

The situation has not changed materially since then. The missionary however, has been on the field the entire year, and received support from the Board of American Missions up to November 1st, 1950; that Board having thus supported this project for exactly one year.

Since missions support was withdrawn, the Pastor was left without any visible means of support, other than the small weekly collections, and a grant of \$200.00 made to him by the Executive Board of our Synod. Apart from this he has enjoyed the generosity of many friends in the field who have shared with him and his family the produce of their farms. But in spite of this obvious financial embarrassment, and the natural indifference of many people in a field so long neglected to any Lutheran Church work, the missionary has remained in the field with the result that in recent months he has seen actual possibilities of a new life, and the willingness of several people to come to grips with organized Lutheran work. The Missions Committee lost no time in reporting this new development to the Board of American Missions, and on the strength of it, ask for a resumption of support for the field and Pastor Sigurgeirsson. To further fortify our request to the Board of American Missions, we prevailed upon one of the members of our Committee, Mr. J. J. Bildfell, to go to Saskatchewan about the middle of March, to confer with local leaders relative to

problems and possibilities on the field. The Executive Committee furnished the funds to make this trip possible. On March 24th, Mr. Bildfell submitted a report to our Committee, from which I quote in part:

"I do not consider it necessary to reiterate the early ecclesiastical history of this district. Let it suffice to state that after Dr. Haraldur Sigmar left Wynyard in 1926, all Lutheran church activities in that district deteriorated until all the Lutheran congregations in the territory ceased to be active. Such were the conditions when Pastor Sigurgeirsson arrived there, a little over a year ago. Lutheran church leaders in Foam Lake whom I met informed me that they intended to organize a Lutheran congregation there as soon as weather and road conditions permitted, provided that similar organizations could be effected in Mozart and Kandahar. The initial membership in Foam Lake, I was told, would not be less than forty, with a splendid chance to augment that number extensively both in Foam Lake and in the adjacent country. I attended a service there on the 17th instant, when the church was crowded to overflow with goodly number of young people in attendance."

After discussing the prospects for organization at Leslie, Mozart and Kandahar, Mr. Bildfell continues:

"I could not ascertain the specific amount that each of these groups would pay towards a minister's salary, the discussions have not advanced far enough for that purpose yet, but all the men that I spoke to were confident that it would be a substantial amount. At the same time they felt that they would be compelled to ask for some financial assistance to begin with, but were confident that they would become self supporting, financially, in a comparatively short time . . . They expect the initial membership of the parish to be from one hundred and ten to one hundred and fifty, with good extension chances in Foam Lake, Leslie and Mozart."

It would thus seem, from this report, which, coming from Mr. Bildfell, we may be quite sure is both factual and conservative, the faith of the Missions Committee in the Saskatchewan field is still justified, and the perseverance of our missionary shall be rewarded, because he is the only candidate considered for this field at present, if it is organized. The Missions Committee has pointed this out to

the Board of American Missions, but they feel, and rightly so, that they have been more than generous and patient in these circumstances, and insist on actual organization of congregations in the field, the submission of regular application forms, and general compliance with their rules, before any further support is considered. Our latest information does not indicate that the proposed organization of congregations has yet been effected. There the matter stands at present. If the Saskatchewan field is to be saved for the Lutheran Church, and for our Synod, it is imperative that steps be taken without further delay to organize the district, or make at least a determined effort to do so. That is one of the challenges which faces this convention.

The United Lutheran Church at Cavalier, North Dakota, while the youngest of our missions, has perhaps made the greatest progress of them all, considering its short history and all circumstances. The confirmed membership has grown in one year from sixty three to ninety-nine, and there is a large list of prospective members, and even a class of adults receiving instruction for confirmation. There is an active Ladies' Aid, and a growing Sunday School. But the greatest accomplishment is the purchase of a church building, which has a seating capacity of approximately two hundred. This building, which was formerly located in the country, has been moved to a well-located lot in the Town of Cavalier, and will be placed on a basement, and remodeled in the near future. The Board of American Missions is assisting the mission financially. This congregation is being served by Stefan Guttormsson, a third year student of theology, who we are informed, has been called as pastor, subject to the completion of his studies and ordination.

The Gimli Parish is a mission parish only in the sense that they have taken a parsonage loan, and therefore come within the province of this report. After a prolonged and disheartening vacancy this parish was fortunate enough to secure the services of the Rev. Harald S. Sigmar as pastor, and he has recently been installed. He and his family have moved into a splendid fully modern house which the parish has purchased for a manse, at the cost of \$9,000.00. On March 18, 1951, your Missions Committee approved the application of this parish for a loan of \$4,500 from the Board of American Missions for the purchase of the manse. This loan to be

paid at the rate of \$225.00 per year, has been approved and granted.

Our pastors have, each according to his circumstances, endeavored to serve vacant and outlying congregations during the year. Thus Pastor Johann Fridriksson has served at Churchbridge and Langruth. Pastor Skuli Sigurgeirsson has made several trips to Hecla Island, and conducted services in the Arborg Parish during the Easter season. Dr. Runolfur Marteinsson has visited Langruth and conducted services there, and Rev. S. Christopherson, now also retired, and living in Winnipeg, has visited Amaranth. Rev. Sigurdur Olafsson has been called upon to spend a great deal of time in his former parishes in New Iceland, and has also, apart from his parish at Selkirk, until recently rendered full time service at the Betel Old Folks Home at Gimli. The president of Synod, the Rev. Egill H. Fafnis, visited our missions on the Pacific coast, as well as several of the parishes here in the Province. We are grateful for the inspiration which the brethren have brought our people in these various communities, and pray Him who gives the increase to make us all mindful of our one important mission: to bring the living Christ, to a dying and distracted world.

V. J. EYLANDS,
Secretary, Home Missions Committee,
Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Sessional Papers No. 7

Skýrsla Betelnefndar

(Report Not Available)

Sameiningin

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Owing to Columbia Press, June 23, 1950.....	\$ 98.56	
Stationery—Envelopes, Receipts and Statements	11.14	
Exchange	2.82	
Postage	5.50	
Commissions	2.01	
Balance in bank June 23, 1950	8.92	
Balance in bank June 20, 1951		\$.66
Subscriptions		262.00
Advertising		107.50
Premiums		3.23
Cost of Printing 12 Issues, June 1950-June 1951 (1 of these a double issue).....	605.00	
Balance unpaid to Columbia Press		160.56
Cheque from Synod		200.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$733.95	\$733.95

F. THORDARSON,
Auditor

F. BENSON,
Treasurer

FRAMHALDSSKÝRSLA

Hvernig getur Sameiningin lifað?

Ekki er ástæðulaust að spyrja þannig, því áskrifendur blaðsins eru nú orðnir hræðilega fáir. Má vera að nytsemdar dagar hennar séu á enda og að hún hafi lokið dagsverki sínu. En hvers vegna ætti hún að deyja? Hver er ástæðan? Eina ástæðan, sem nokkrum manni gæti dottið í hug, er sú, að nú sé íslenzk tunga svo þverrandi hér vestra, að hún geti ekki lengur unað lífi.

Í apríl-blað Sameiningarinnar ritaði ég grein um þetta mál og hélt því þar fram, að enn væru nógu margir Vestur-Íslendingar, er gætu lesið og skilið íslenzku til þess að halda við blaðinu. Síðan ég skrifaði þá grein hefir þetta mál opnast enn betur fyrir mér, og skal ég nú segja frá

því. Bandalag Lúterskra kvenna gefur út tímarit, sem heitir Árdís, að mestu leyti á íslenzku. Það fyrirtæki hepnast svo vel, að það borgar allan kostnað og á svo mikið í sjóði, að með honum er unt að reisa skýli við sumarbúðir æskunnar í Sunrise Lutheran Camp. Þar af leiðandi tel ég það víst, að ef allir meðlimir Kirkjufélags vors væru konur, myndi Sameiningin lifa góðu lífi.

Annað dæmi vil ég einnig nefna. Til er kristilegt tímarit, á vegum Aðventista, sem nefnist Stjarnan. Ritið er algjörlega á íslenzku og fjallar nærri eingöngu um trúmál. Útgefandi hennar er íslenzk kona, sem á heima á Lundar, Miss Sigríður Johnson. Hún er alein í því starfi; en hún lætur prenta 900 eintök af tímariti sínu á hverjum mánuði; en alt okkar íslenzka Lúterska kirkjufélag getur ekki gefið blaði sínu „Sameiningunni, svo mikið sem 300 kaupendur.

Hvernig geðjast yður að samanburðinum?

Ég heyri einhvern segja: Þarna sjáið þið mynd af áhugaleysinu. Þar er viljaleysi í algleymingi.

Ef við segjum, að sú niðurstaða sé rétt, er samt eftir ráðgátan: hvernig á að skapa hinn góða vilja, hvernig á að vekja áhugann?

Hvað hefir verið reynt? Þegar forseti Kirkjufélagsins kom til mín eftir kirkjuþing í fyrra og bað mig að taka að mér ritstjórn blaðsins, sagði hann mér, að öllum söfnuðum yrði send hvatning til að hjálpa Sameiningunni. Getur nokkur frætt mig um það, að einn einasti söfnuður hafi nokkurntíma á árinu lyft litla fingri sínum til að hjálpa Sameiningunni? Það má vel vera, þó ég hafi ekki heyrt þess getið.

Í greininni, sem ég skrifaði um málið í apríl-blaðið, og ég hefi áður minst á, flutti ég sterka áskorun til allra góðra drengja, að koma Sameiningunni til liðs.

Hvaða árangur varð af þessari beiðni? Séra Guttormur Guttormsson sendi mér \$5 handa „Sam.“, en það mun hafa skeð áður en greinin mín birtist. Kona í Minneapolis, Mrs. María Ersted, sendi mér einnig \$5 í áskriftargjald fyrir „Sam.“ Hvorttveggja þetta er einstaklega fallett, og er ég þeim af hjarta þakklátur fyrir þennan dásamlega kærleika til þessa málefns.

Á þessu þingi vil ég aðeins biðja eins: þess, að menn tali um Sameininguna með drenglyndri hreinskilni, hver sem sannfæring þeirra er. Ég vil, að enginn sé víttur fyrir neina skoðun, en að menn beri sig sundur og saman í hreinni

einlægni, um það, hvað hægt er að gjöra. Á Sameiningin að lifa, eða er bezt, að hún deyi nú? Ef menn skyldu halda því fram, að lifa, ættu menn að láta í ljós allar hugmyndir sínar um það, hvað ætti að vera í blaðinu.

Til þess að opna þær hugsanalindir, dettur mér í hug að nefna ýmislegt, sem að því máli lýtur. Sumu af því hefi ég leitast við að fylgja á árinu þessu, sem nú er rétt liðið, en ég nefni hér fleira. Á þessu ári var ég að feta mig áfram til að reyna að finna réttu leiðina; en bæði er það, að ég var veikur nokkra mánuði ársins og eins það, að ég gat ekki ævinlega fengið það sem ég vildi, og var ekki búinn að finna niðurstöðu í öllum atriðum. Úr því ég minnst á veikindi mín vil ég einmitt hér þakka séra Valdimar J. Eylands fyrir góða hjálp meðan ég var veikur og eins þakka öllum hinum, sem rituðu í blaðið fyrir mína beiðni.

Hvað á að standa í blaðinu? Það viljum vér athuga.

Blaðið er íslenskt. Málið er fallett og fólki voru kært. Það er til góðs að leggja rækt við það eftir því sem það getur flutt oss, yngri og eldri, nytsemd og fegurð. Svo lengi sem það er tilfellið sýnist fara vel á því, að þar sé eitthvað sagt frá ættjörðinni, eitthvað af gulli andlegra ljóða, eitthvað markvert, heilbrigt og guðdómlegt sem gjörist í kirkju Íslands.

Á sama hátt er blaðið vestur-íslenskt. Viðburði í því, líf og minningar frá því fólki mætti til gagns og gleði færa yfir á blaðsíður Sameiningarinnar.

Sameiningin er kristilegt blað. Í boðskap kristindómsins liggur hin fyrsta skylda hennar. Að vitna um Jesúm Krist, mannkyns Frelsarann, veginn til allra andlegra gæða, að flytja mönnum boðskap sáluhjálparinnar, og túlka þeim vilja Guðs til manngöfgis og blessunar um tíma og eilífð er heilög skylda Sameiningarinnar. Hún á að vera kristilegt vakningarblað fyrst af öllu. Bjarmi á Íslandi flytur nærri eingöngu trúmál.

Sameiningin er því næst kirkjublað. Þar koma til greina 4 deildir: hin almenna kristna kirkja, Lúterska kirkjan sérstaklega, United Lutheran Church, sem vér tilheyrum og vort eigið Kirkjufélag.

Má vera, að ég hefði átt að nefna Kirkjufélag vort fyrst, því sumir ætla, að hver sé sjálfum sér næstur, en Kirkjufélag vort er til, sem nokkur hluti af hinni Almennu kirkju, er var til löngu áður. Í síðustu tíð hefir henni þrýðilega verið sýndur sómi í Sameiningunni með „Hvaðanæfa“

séra Guttorms Guttormssonar; en næstu deildinni, vorri eigin United Lutheran Church, þarf fólk vort að kynnast betur, sérstaklega þremur stórmálum hennar: trúboði líknarstarfi og mentastofnun. Margir kannast við, að vér styrkjum þessi göfugu málefni ekki nógu vel. Samt hefir þetta töluvert færst í lag á síðasta ári. Með fréttum af því sem starfað er í United Lutheran Church og með sanngjörnum, hvetjandi orðum um drengilegan stuðning, gæti Sameiningin, að einhverju leyti, göfgað hugsunarhátt vörn gagnvart félaginu sem vér tilheyrum og málefnum þess.

Þá komum vér að Kirkjufélagi voru. Þar getur Sameiningin orðið að miklu liði. Hið fyrsta, sem mér kemur í hug, er hið fagra hlutverk að styrkja vinatengslin, sem ættu að vera milli einstaklinga og safnaða vorra, með kærleiksríkum umsögnum um menn og málefni, og með umsögnum um það, sem markvert gjörist og er til fyrirmyndar, ásamt persónulegum hlýleik milli blaðsins og lesendanna, með hvetjandi vinsamlegum anda gagnvart stofnunum Kirkjufélagsins (sumarbúðum æskunnar og heimilum fyrir ellina), og engu síður með því að styrkja af alefli þau málefni sem Kirkjufélaginu ber heilög skylda til að hjálpa svo sem: safnaðarstarf, sunnudagaskólar, ungmennafélagskapur, trúboð, líknarstarf og fleira.

Í viðbót við allt þetta ættu vel heima í Sameiningunni fögur, andleg ljóð og lærdómsríkar sögur. Sanngjörn meðferð Kirkjuársins er auðvitað sjálfsögð.

Getur Sameiningin lifað?

Til þess þyrfti hún að tvöfalda áskrifendatölu sína.

Ef mönnum er alvara með þetta mál og þeir strengja þess heit að láta stuðning verða að framkvæmd, hefir mér dottið í hug að það væri til góðs að kjósa ekki einungis ritstjóra heldur einnig ritnefnd. Ef það yrði samþykkt ætti allur hópurinn að koma saman og gjöra áætlun um innihald blaðsins meiri hluta starfsársins og svo væri skift niður verkum þannig að sérhver hefði sitt sérstaka hlutverk: einn annaðist Kirkjufélagsfréttir, annar „Hvaðanæfa“, þriðji segði frá United Lutheran áhugamálum, o. s. frv.

Ég þrái einarðlega, bróðurlega, hugrakka, drengilega athugun.

Persónulega sé ég engan veg til að tvöfalda áskrifendafjölda Sameiningarinnar nema með miklu meiri alvöru og fórnfærslu en ég hefi séð í háa herrans tíð. Eftir því sem ég lít á málið gætu tvær aðferðir komið til greina:

1. Að Kirkjufélagið launi hæfum manni til að ferðast um allar byggðir Vestur-Íslendinga til að safna áskrifendum.

2. Að hver einasti söfnuður taki þetta mál að hjarta sínu með þeirri alvöru sem ekkert lætur ógjört til að fá nægilegan kaupendafjölda.

Má vera að fleiri aðferðir séu til; en það er áherzluatriði hjá mér, að kirkjubingssamþykkt er gjörsamlega gagnslaus nema hún skapi framkvæmd.

Samþykktin 1949.

Segjum nú, bræður góðir, að þér hafið athugað málið af allri þeirri drenglund og einlægni, sem Guð hefir gefið ykkur, og komist svo að þeirri niðurstöðu, að Sameiningunni verði ekki bjargað, hvaða ráð eru þá fyrir hendi? Þá að gjöra hana að ársriti og vanda til þess rits á allan hátt af þeim beztu kröftum, sem til eru í Kirkjufélaginu, annað hvort með Gjörðabókinni eða án hennar. Sem ársrit væri hún á bekk við Þjóðræknisritið og Árdísi. Bezt væri að hafa enga áskrifendur, en fela söfnuðunum söluna.

Rúnólfur Marteinsson

Sessional Papers No. 9

Stewardship Secretary's Report, 1951

Whenever I think of Christian Stewardship, I think of that gem from the Psalm, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein." That expresses the root meaning of Christian Stewardship. The earth **is** the **Lord's**, we are its stewards—His Stewards, and we must make before Him a good stewardship of what He has given us and gives us. The cattle on the hillsides—they're not ours, they're the Lord's; the coal in the ground—it's not ours, it's the Lord's, everything is the Lord's—all of life—and He has given us all its blessings. And stewardship is our response, our total response to God and His Work for all His love to us. So Christian Stewardship is in brief, "the practice of the Christian Religion". That puts the emphasis where it belongs. Christian Stewardship is what I **do**, after I have once said, "I believe". It's the response of my whole life to God in Christ out of gratitude for His amazing and redeeming love. It's the giving of everything

I am, and everything I have, to Him, to be used as He, through His Church, directs. So note that Christian Stewardship always begins with God and His goodness to me.

Does it include giving my money? Of course! The Christian can't talk of giving himself to God without including his money—generous portions of it—but let's emphasize that it is all of us, our total self, that God wants—our money, our interest, our abilities, our loyalty, our love, our willingness to seek others, our time, our whole being. Christian Stewardship is giving my whole life to Him—my whole life in thanksgiving for His grace.

It is noted with joy that the gifts of congregations to the Mission's Apportionment Fund increased considerably this year over last year. Ten of our 38 congregations met this apportionment towards missions in full, and a few other congregations made a substantial contribution towards their apportionment. However there are many congregations who are as yet making no attempt or a very meagre attempt to give their fair share towards this tremendously important aspect of our church's work. Therefore the following suggestions are respectfully submitted:

1. That the five suggestions presented in the Stewardship Secretary's report of 1950 (pages 67-69, 1950, Convention Proceedings) be considered and acted upon by the individual congregations insofar as possible.
2. We urgently request that each congregation take concrete and definite steps in meeting in full or in part their missions apportionment, either through special offerings, congregational visitations and solicitations, or the use of the "Duplex Envelope".
3. That the free materials for Stewardship promotion be used and distributed to the membership of the congregations. (Stewardship Office, 231 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y.).
4. That rallies for Christian Higher Education Year Appeal be held in the parishes where they have not been held.
5. That the Cause of Lutheran World Action be presented with renewed vigour and special offerings continued to be received.

Lutheran Women's League Report 1950

This report comprises chiefly work done by the executive during the year and tabulated as shown at our convention at Langruth, May 31, June 2nd and 3rd.

The executive, comprising eight officers and five advisory members, meet with various committees during the year. These meetings are held in homes of members and are inspiring in every way. Commencing with a devotional and concluding with the Lord's Prayer. Business is gone into thoroughly and careful decisions are made pertaining to the various topics on the L.W.L.'s agenda.

Judging from the many reports heard at our convention it is especially remarkable how much this organization has accomplished, let us say, since we were at Langruth, just seven years ago. Going over former reports in Ardis, the L.W.L. at that time did not have a camp and possessed only \$1,000.00 towards the camp fund.

Because of difficulties in securing a suitable camp site for religious instruction, it was decided to establish a vacation school for two weeks. Selkirk was to try this out that year. It surely must make our hearts fill with sincere gratitude to all who have so ably worked for this worthy cause and brought it to the grand success it now is. Our Sunrise Lutheran Camp at Husavik shows that in every way. The good derived from this venture will without doubt bear fruit that will multiply with the years.

According to our reports on membership we find our League has 750 adherent members and with the two organizations joining at our Langruth convention this year, the Dorcas Society, First Lutheran Church, and Silver Bay Ladies' Aid, we now count a membership of approximately one thousand Lutheran women.

The League has 22 affiliated organizations on its membership list and all these give support to Betel Old People's Home, Gimli, Foreign Missions, Lutheran World Action, Red Cross, Red Cross Hospitals, Children's Hospital, Children's Aid Societies, Sunrise Lutheran Camp, Cancer Research, Blind Institute, March of Dimes, and last year

gave aid to the Flood Relief. All our organizations engage in Community Welfare and their congregations receiving full support to the best of their ability.

Funds for all these various needs have been raised by each organization within our League and disbursed according to the will of members in these organizations. Our one joint-effort, the Sunrise Lutheran Camp, has received wholehearted support from all members of the League. May God bless the endeavours of the Lutheran Women's League and may God's blessing rest upon the decisions of this Synod.

HELGA GUTTORMSON,
Secretary of the Lutheran Women's League.
FJOLA GRAY, President.

Sessional Papers No. 11

Temperance Representative Report

As your representative, I have here a report on our work in The Manitoba Temperance Alliance.

Our annual convention was held in St. Paul's United Church, Winnipeg, on Monday and Tuesday, October 30 and 31, 1950. Our president, the Rev. E. M. Checkland, presided.

The treasurer's report showed total expenses for the fiscal year of \$6,706.64. Budget submitted by our treasurer has \$10,000 for the following year.

The Government of Manitoba has promised to pay us 40 per cent of what we spend, the other 60 per cent we will have to find by donations from the public. You would like to know how that money was spent.

Secretary's report to the Minister of Education, at the end of March, 1951, for nine months. Summary of appointments: church services 19, Sunday Schools 3, Public Schools 26, Public Meetings 15, Summer Camps 9. Total appointments 72, total audiences 7,244, films shown, 168.

Pertinent Notes

Item 1. Every one of our Manitoba 1,000 churches could hear about temperance either from Mr. Neaves or the Branch Unit or from the Minister.

Item 2. Sunday Schools still have four lessons per year in their lessons on temperance with pledge signing and contributions. The need for education, dedication and contribution is greater than ever.

Item 3. Public schools have the social study course now and the text is a section on alcohol, its use and abuse. Our films have been reported by school students as interesting, informative and challenging.

Item 4. Public meetings have been known to succeed better than church meetings on this delicate subject. Every hamlet, village, town and city should hold one meeting a year for public safety purposes.

Item 5. The Summer Camps, nine in number is a satisfactory number; it can be increased; Mr. Neaves and others can help campers.

Item 6. Mr. Neaves was very sick for some time but is now again well and will increase his appointments.

Item 7. The total audiences are wholly a matter of local responsibility. No secretary can be praised or blamed for the size. It is your job.

Item 8. Our films are worthwhile, we need more. Check on all these items above and prayerfully discover where and when and how often you can help your community yourselves, and call on the M.T.A. to assist you.

We have 10 films now, just give Mr. Neave a call and make arrangements with him.

Everybody can understand that our expenses are high, wages for all-time secretary and assistant bookkeeper, Mr. Neave being away so much, office rent and travel, printing, etc. "It cannot be denied."

Every scientific fact gathered from the studies of alcohol points to the abstinence as a sound way of life.

It is "Sound Socially". The use of alcoholic beverages creates no improvement in social relationship, rather it hinders and defeats the building of good fellowship.

It is "Sound Physically". Alcohol is a killer when used for human consumption. It is not subject to digestion.

It is "Sound Economically. Manitoba spent approximately 29 million dollars during the year 1950 for liquor plus another nine million for hotel keepers' profits; nearly 40 million dollars which could be devoted to the building

of new schools and increasing teachers' salaries, better roads and the many other sadly needed improvements.

It is "Sound Psychologically". Beverage alcohol has at no time given any real help to the mind. Its uses as an "Escape", a "Crutch" or as a "Pick-Me-Up" are valueless. Its use cannot possibly promote creative or realistic thinking.

It is "Sound Morally". The use of beverage alcohol even in small quantities put to sleep the frontal lobes of our brain—the part no animal has. When God created man he did not intend he should, by drinking, revert to the level of animal life, both physically and mentally. Drinkers desecrate God's image, and His handiwork.

So I hope you will agree with me that alcohol is a good thing to leave alone.

Let Us All Be Educators

Alcoholic beverages are one of the most popular commodities in the Canadian market. Almost five per cent of the National Income is spent in their purchase. One million and five hundred thousand is spent for liquor every day of the year in last report. What a tremendous amount of wise, honest and kindly education is necessary if we are to persuade the public of the plain folly of putting an enemy in their mouth to steal away their brain. A beautiful new technicolor film entitled "Public Enemy No. 1" has recently been added to our library, that now has ten films. Hundreds of school children have seen our films again this year owing to the industry of General Secretary Mr. Neaves. Arrangements are being made for the offering of a series of lectures on alcohol at the summer normal school at Gimli this July. It would be very nice if we could get some help from teachers from our Sunrise Lutheran Camp. There are other things that everyone of us can be doing to educate our friends, both those who drink and those who do not. Almost every newspaper provides us with material: the increasing number of news items which tell us of violence, immorality, traffic accidents, poverty from alcoholic consumption, these can be drawn to the attention of others in conversation. We can educate, too, by showing that you can have a party without liquor, or when you attend a wet party by showing that you don't have to drink. Surely among rational beings,

a person should have as much right to choose between wine and gingerale as between tea and coffee. Host and hostess need to be educated to see, as Emily Post pointed out, that it is poor taste not to provide an alternative to liquor. (Study this.)

We can help by disabusing the public's mind of the "hokum" that "everybody drinks". They do not. Latest figures reveal that 35 per cent of this country are total abstainers. Temperance enthusiasts have been as guilty as any others in propagating the view that "everybody drinks". It is not so. Let's knock it on the head everytime we hear it.

Let me underline the thought of these last sentences. We must not be defeatist, liquor is not having all its own way. Already, month by month, liquor figures are decreasing in the United States. That time is coming in Canada. Rev. Johnson, our president, says, "My work as a minister takes me into scores of homes every month. I talk with great numbers every week. It is a growing conviction with me that moderate drinkers are not nearly as certain of their position as they used to be. They still think they can control their own drinking habits. Most of them can, but the thing that disturbs them is that they are sensing they are participating in a habit which when seen in National proportions is devastating and scandalous. They are discovering that whatever it means to them individually, it is a habit that society as a whole, would be better without." Those are Rev. Johnson's findings.

So with constancy, wisdom, honesty and kindness, let us continue to press our case for voluntary total abstinence. Let us be Educators All. Discuss this in your home and with others who are friends, acquaintances and even hostile ones. Think of ways and means of doing this well.

Temperance Education in Public Schools of the Province

Dr. J. M. Brown has been appointed to the newly established position of Director of Alcohol Education in the Provincial Department of Education. Dr. Brown will prepare the material to be used in schools, particularly high schools, on the subject of alcohol education.

Mr. Miller, Minister of Education, explained the government and Department of Education for some time "have been giving considerable thought to ways and means of

providing the young people of the province with accurate and scientific information about the use of alcohol."

Dr. Brown has attended the Manitoba-Saskatchewan-Alberta School of Narcotic Education at Saskatoon. He has also had wide experience in teaching in schools throughout the province.

"Dr. Brown's appointment will make it possible to focus attention on this vital subject in the health, science and social study portions of the programme of studies and make the programme, it is hoped, more effective," Mr. Miller declared.

Alcohol Found Big Factor in Quarter Fatalities

Chicago, May 25th, 1951 — One year survey indicated Thursday that alcohol is a "contributing or responsible factor" in more than one-fourth of the most common forms of non-industrial violent deaths that occurred in a typical United States community.

The finding was made by three doctors from the Department of Laboratories and Research, West Chester County, New York. They examined for traces of alcohol in the livers and brains of 246 consecutive victims of violent death in the county in 1949. They found that alcohol was the responsible or contributing factor in 68 (27 per cent) of the fatalities.

The study showed, of 78 traffic fatalities 36 of the victims had consumed alcohol; of 78 suicides, 15 of the fatalities were under the influence of alcohol; of 82 non-industrial accidental deaths, 20 showed traces of alcohol; of eight homicides, seven were under various stages of intoxication.

The doctors said "the persons responsible for seven of the homicides also were under the influence of alcohol."

The Centennial Festival of the International Good Templar Order is being celebrated in many countries. It was held in the cathedral of Iceland in January and in Winnipeg, April 30th, and on the 29th there were Temperance Sermons given in both of the Icelandic churches in Winnipeg by Rev. Eylands and Rev. Petursson. It sure was a real Temperance Sunday and we the Good Templars are very thankful to them both and hope they will repeat it three or four times a year. There never was more need for it than at present.

One of the members of the committee, a lady connected with the Unemployment Committee who comes in contact with displaced persons from Central Europe, suggested that we should invite some of these displaced persons to one of our meetings.

A meeting was held May 21st, 1951, which three of them attended. But as yet nothing further has been reported.

MARGRET BARDAL.

Sessional Papers No. 12

Dagskrárnefnd

Dagskrárnefndin leggur til að forseta skrifara séu þakkaðar ýtarlegar skýrslur, er fram hafa verið lagðar, og fyrir vel unnin störf á umliðnu ári.

Nefndin leggur til að þessi mál verði tekin fyrir í þeirri röð, sem hér segir:

1. Trúboðsmál
2. Elliheimilin
3. Útgáfumál
4. Leikmanna- og vakningaarstarf
5. Æskulýðsstarf
6. Samband Kirkjufélags vors við U. L. C. A.
 - a) Lutheran World Action
 - b) Christian Higher Education
 - c) Apportionment
7. Yfirlýsingar og kveðjuskeyti
8. Bindindismál
9. Lutheran Women's League and the Sunrise Lutheran Camp
10. Trúmálafundir
11. Önnur mál

Valdimar J. Eylands, G. Guttormsson, S. Ólafsson

Report of the Convention Committee On Missions

The Convention Committee on Missions appointed by the Synod President to examine the report of the Synodical Missions Committee respectfully submits the following recommendations to the Convention assembled in Lundar. The Committee moves:

1. That the Convention give a rising vote of appreciation to our Synod Missions Committee for its splendid service during the past year and to the Board of American Missions of the U.L.C.A. for its consecrated support of our home missionary enterprises.

2. That the Convention recognize with gratitude that the Synod's first mission to become self-supporting as to pastor's salary, Calvary Lutheran of Seattle, Wash., has come to its present state of development due to the assistance of the Board of American Missions during the past eight years and to the faith and effort of the people of that congregation.

3. That the Convention express appreciation of the forward step taken by the Blaine Lutheran Mission in its recent purchase of a parsonage which will be the home of its new pastor, the Rev. Haraldur and Mrs. Sigmar.

4. That Synod note with deep appreciation the strides for the Kingdom made by our new Cavalier Mission, especially in its recent purchase of a House of God.

5. That the Convention authorize the Executive Committee to subsidize travelling expenses of the Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfsson, who has accepted a call to the Vancouver Icelandic Lutheran Mission, to the extent of \$300.00.

6. That the Convention authorize the Missions Committee of Synod to wire the B.A.M. immediately requesting them to re-subsidize the pastor's salary in the Foam Lake-Kandahar Mission Field, pending organizing of that field and that one of the pastors of the Synod be sent as a representative of the Synod to assist the missionary in the final organization of the congregations there.

7. Request all congregations to lift an offering for support of Saskatchewan work.

8. That a prayer be offered by the President of Synod on the floor of Synod thanking God our Father for His Grace in strengthening our mission efforts, asking His blessing upon the world-wide work of our Church and dedicating ourselves to a more consecrated support of Christ's divine mission of extending God's Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

BJORN JOHNSON A. S. DINUSON MRS. J. AXDAL
M. HALLDORSON HARALD S. SIGMAR

Sessional Papers No. 14

Committee Report on Betel Old Folks Home

1. The Committee appointed by the Synod to report on Betel Old Folks' Home submits the following report:
2. We wish to thank the Board of Directors for the excellent work they have done this past year. We would also give special mention to the work of the Matron, Mrs. J. Augusta Tallman, for the kind and sympathetic care given the residents and for the good relations prevailing between the staff, the residents and the board.
3. We would bring to the attention of the Synod the great value of bequests made from year to year. Even though these have in many cases been small, in the aggregate they have amounted to substantial sums, being no less than \$2,372.68 this last year.
4. In the matter of repairing the breakwater at Gimli, referred to in last year's report, we are pleased to say that the Dominion Government has made a grant of \$65,000 for this purpose.
5. Your Committee would recommend that the Synod endorse the suggestion made by the Board that the minimum monthly payment to the Home by each resident be \$45.00 per month, beginning June 1st, 1951, where the resident's financial circumstances permit.

J. G. JOHANNSSON, G. VIGFUSSON,
MRS. R. ANDERSON, MRS. G. SOLMUNDSON, M. BRIEM

Cooperation Committee

The Committee on Cooperation with the United Lutheran Church and its auxiliaries, respectfully submit the following:

1. That the Synod express its appreciation of the visit of the official representative of the U.L.C.A. to this 67th Convention of our Synod, the Rev. Dr. Edwin H. Knudsen, and of the very informative and inspiring address which he delivered at the Convention.
2. That the Synod express its thanks to the Women's Missionary Society and its representative, Miss Frances Dysinger, LL.D., for her visit to the Convention.
3. That the Synod voice its gratitude to the Stewardship Secretary of the Synod, the Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, for his work promoting interest in the World Program of the Church among the congregations of our Synod.
4. That the Synod urgently request all the congregations of Synod to make an earnest effort to meet in full the U.L.C.A. apportionment.
5. That rallies for Christian Higher Education Appeal be held this year in those congregations of our Synod which have not already held such rallies.
6. That the pastors of the Synod be urged to present the cause of Lutheran World Action to their congregations and prevail upon their church boards to have special offerings taken for this cause.

GISLI BJORNSEN, H. G. GUNNLAUGSON,
JOAN GUDMUNDSON, JOHN VALDIMARSON,
VALDIMAR J. EYLANDS.

Youth Work Committee

PARISH EDUCATION

A—Sunday School Clinics

This Committee acknowledges the cooperation given the Sunday School Teachers' Clinics that were held in our Synod this past spring. We wish to encourage congrega-

tions to take more active part next year. We also wish to impress the delegates with the importance of taking this information back to their congregations. We wish to impress the importance of pastoral cooperation in publicizing this throughout the congregation and working up the interest of Sunday School Teachers.

B—We advise the formation of parish education committees within each of the congregations to assume the responsibility each congregation has for the education of its children and young people.

Concrete objectives for the committee might be:

1. The formation of a Sunday School Library. Reference books and source books for use of teachers, such as: Commentaries, teachers' bibles, biblical dictionaries, new translations, atlas's, illustrated Bible stories, etc.

Formation of a congregational book corner (missionary biographies, etc.). Books to be borrowed by children and people of congregation.

2. The teachers be made aware of the "Parish School" magazine (\$1.80 single subscription—\$1.60 for five or more) and be encouraged to use it in their work.
3. That these committees make use of the literature available regarding the most efficient use of space and facilities at hand, in order that our Sunday School may function more efficiently.
4. That these committees acquaint themselves with "The Parents' Quarterly" and the attendant leaflet "How To Use the Parent Quarterly", in order that the parents might become interested and useful in the education of the youth.
5. That these committees, with the cooperation of the pastor, encourage regular monthly meetings of the Sunday School teaching staff, and that these meetings be used to pursue a course of study in connection with parish education.

C—This committee suggests to the Synod the purchasing of "The Leadership Education Audio Visual Kit"—(\$75.00) for use in leadership education in our congregations. We further suggest that the offered assistance of Miss Gilstrom be used in connection with this audio-visual kit, in holding one week

teachers education classes in the various congregations of our Synod.

YOUTH WORK

1. We wish to extend congratulations to the Minneota Parish for the formation of its Luther League this past year.
2. That the Luther League be organized on a Synodical basis. That this organization be held responsible for the furtherance of the Luther League propaganda, ideals, objectives and literature by youth organizations in our Synod, thereby providing the very necessary link between our local groups and the National organization. (Luther League of U.L.C.A.)
3. That the support of the adult organizations of the Synod be enlisted in encouraging youth activities in our congregations. The Men's Club can become effective sponsors of youth work in our Synod.

STEFAN T. GUTTORMSSON, MRS. GUDRUN BLONDAL,
MRS. S. STEFANSON.

Sessional Papers No. 17

Lutheran Women's League Report

1. The committee submits the following recommendations:
2. We wish to thank the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Women's League for achievements in the past.
3. We recommend that the pastors of the Synod encourage parents to send their children to the Sunrise Lutheran Camp and encourage the parents to visit the camp.
4. We recommend that "Article IV" of the by-laws be dropped and the following article be substituted: "The Executive Committee at its final meeting before the Annual Convention shall prepare the Convention Agenda and publish same in its Announcement of Convention; also that any changes or additions to this agenda may be made by a motion on the floor of the Convention.
5. We recommend that the Synod cooperate with the Lutheran Women's League to organize and operate Sunday Schools in districts where there are no Sunday Schools.

6. We recommend that the pastors and leaders of our organizations foster among their people a loving and abiding interest in all the activities of the Lutheran Women's League.

J. FREDRIKSSON, E. VIGFUSSON,
GUDNY GUTTORMSON.

Sessional Papers No. 18

Laymen's Committee

I Lutheran Laymen's Movement

This committee encourages men in the Synod to become acquainted with the Lutheran Laymen's Movement, its membership requirements, objectives and ideals; and suggests that interested men join it. This Lutheran Laymen's Movement requires real Christian Stewardship by its members of their time, talent, and money (\$100-\$1,000 per year per member).

II Brotherhood of the U.L.C.A.

a. This committee suggests and encourages the formation of a Brotherhood in every parish throughout the Synod, and that each Brotherhood follow the ten-point program of the Brotherhood of the U.L.C.A.

b. This committee further suggests the formation of this Brotherhood on a Synod-wide basis to form the necessary link between the local and national organizations.

B. K. JONSSON, SIGURJON M. JOHNSON,
THOMAS G. EINARSON.

Sessional Papers No. 19

Útgáfumálanefndin

Nefndin í útgáfumálinu leyfir sér að leggja fram eftirfylgjandi tillögur til þingsályktunar:

1. Þingið þakkar ritstjórum Sameiningarinnar og Parish Messenger fyrir skyldurækni og ágætt starf við þessi rit Kirkjufélagsins, og séra Rúnólfi fyrir ýtarlegt og vandað erindi hans á þinginu um hagi og þarfir Sameiningarinnar.

Einnig þakkar þingið Mrs. B. S. Benson fyrir hennar mikla og góða starf við Sameininguna og þeim öðrum, sem hafa starfað við útgáfu ritanna.

2. Þingið ákveður að Sameiningin verði á næsta ári gefin út sem ársfjórðungsrit (Quarterly), og að blaðsíðutala samsvari því, sem nú er árlega. Skal verðið enn vera hið sama fyrir árganginn eins og áður.

3. Þingið ákveður að þriðji fjórðungur Sameiningarinnar birti Gjörðabók þingsins. Skal Sameiningin vera gefin út á íslenzku nema hvað Gjörðabókina snertir.

4. Þingið ákveður að biðja erindreka þessa þings og aðra safnaðarleiðtoga að beita sér fyrir útbreiðslu Sameiningarinnar víðsvegar út um söfnuði vora og meðal vors fólks.

5. Patron Subscription approved.

6. Þingið lýsir ánægju sinni út af vinsældum Parish Messenger og út af því, að það virðist bera sig með núverandi fyrirkomulagi. Og ákveður því að það skuli vera gefið út á sama hátt næsta ár.

7. Þingið biður skrifara safnaðanna að senda sem allra fyrst skýrslu til féhirðis Kirkjufélagsins um það hvað mörg eintök þurfi að senda til safnaðanna, svo að til allra heimila geti verið útbýtt eintaki, og að þeir sjái fyrir því að Parish Messenger sé veitt viðtaka alls staðar svo ekki bregðist nokkur tíma að útbýta því til heimilanna.

8. Þingið felur væntanlegri framkvæmdarnefnd að kjósa ritstjóra fyrir bæði ritin, einnig þá er aðstoði þá við útgáfu ritanna. Ennfremur felur þingið þeirri nefnd að ákveða þóknun til þeirra er við ritin starfa í samræmi við það sem hefir tíðkast.

Á kirkjupingi á Lundar, Man., 23. júní 1941

**H. Sigmar, Mrs. H. B. Hofteig, Mrs. B. K. Jónsson,
T. J. Gíslason, G. J. Oleson.**

Sessional Papers No. 20

Report of Committee for the Revision of Convention Procedure

1. We recommend that the annual reports of officers, standing committees and special committees be mimeographed

or printed, and presented to all delegates of the Convention.

2. We recommend that delegates to the Annual Convention be elected by the congregation at their annual meetings, wherever possible, and that names of all delegates be in the hands of the Executive Committee of Synod at least one month before the Convention.
3. We recommend that part "6", Article XII of the by-laws be dropped, said part reads: "Signing of Convention Roll". Instead of this procedure we recommend that after the names of those entitled to be seated in the Convention have been read by the Committee on Credentials, that said delegates be asked to rise, and after confessing the Apostle's Creed together, and accepting the Convention pledge, they be declared officially received as delegates to the Convention by the President. (The committee feels this procedure will save at least one-half hour of precious convention time.)
4. We recommend that "Article IV" of the by-laws be dropped and the following article be substituted: "The Executive Committee at its final meeting before the Annual Convention shall prepare the Convention Agenda and publish same in its Announcement of Convention; also that any changes or additions to this agenda may be made by a motion on the floor of the Convention.
5. We are informed that copies of the Constitution and By-Laws are now out of print. We recommend that the Executive Committee be charged with having a sufficient number of new copies printed, with the changes in By-Laws being made, assuming that the above changes are adopted by this Convention.
6. We recommend that the Executive Committee be charged to see that the above changes in By-Laws pending adoption at this convention, are worded in the proper legal terminology, and properly prepared for the printing of the new edition of Constitution and By-Laws.
7. We recommend that the Executive Committee inform congregations not later than end of April where and when the Convention is to be held.

ERIC SIGMAR, H. J. AUSTMAN, HELGI THOMPSON,
RUDOLPH TRAPP, E. DANIELSON.

Temperance Committee Report

In view of the fact that the Temperance issue is basic to all human welfare and also in view of the fact that consumption of alcoholic beverages has today assumed alarming proportions, the work of those who like Mrs. A. S. Bardal, that have unstintingly and unselfishly through the years given of their best to combat this destructive agent of evil, cannot be too highly recommended for their services to their fellowmen.

We, the Committee, recommend:

1. That the convention express its sincere appreciation to Mrs. Bardal for her untiring efforts in the interests of temperance and, also for her informative and enlightening report to the convention.
2. We urge the Synod to suggest to all Sunday School superintendents to avail themselves of Sunday School literature on temperance education.
3. We recommend that at least two temperance films be shown to each group at Sunrise Camp and, also that these films be shown consistently to our young people's groups throughout our Synod.
4. We urge our ministers to preach on temperance education at least four times during the year.
5. We recommend that Mrs. Bardal continue as the Synodical representative to the Manitoba Temperance Alliance.
6. We recommend that twenty-five dollars be donated to the Manitoba Temperance Alliance.

SIGRIDUR SIGURGEIRSON, MRS. THOS. EINARSON,
PALL STEFANSON

Trúmálafundur á Kirkjubingum

Nefndinni sem falið var á hendur að íhuga þetta mál, er eindregin þeirrar skoðunar að slíkir fundir hafi í liðinni tíð oft verið vekajndi og blessunarrikir — og leggur því til, að framkvæmdarnefnd Kirkjufélagsins sé falið að ráð-

stafa því að eitt kvöld á hverju kirkjupingi sé helgað slíkum fundi, með fyrirlestri um eitthvert mikilsvarðandi andlegt málefni, og umræðum er á eftir fari.

Kirkjupingið 1951

F. P. Sigurðsson, S. Ólafsson, Mrs. A. S. Dinuson

Sessional Papers No. 23

Financial Committee Report, 1951

1. Your committee is pleased to report a healthy state of financial position of our Synod.
2. Finance Committee recommends that future contributions by individual parishes and congregations be made directly to the local church treasurers and they in turn to the Synodical Treasurer.
3. Your committee recommends the following honorariums be paid:

Secretary and Statistician	\$100.00
Treasurer	100.00
Editor Parish Messenger	50.00
Editor Sameiningin	50.00
Manager Sameiningin	50.00

The deletion of honorarium for manager of the Parish Messenger is made possible by the generosity of Mr. Njall Bardal, who refuses to accept same for the coming year. A fine gesture indeed.

Moved and seconded that the sum of \$1,700 be allocated for the year's running expenses of Synod.

4. We further recommend that the Executive Board of the Synod dispose of the stock of old books on hand (except hymnals) through sales, donations to worthy institutions or individuals at their discretion.
5. The committee further recommends that the deficits re publications which have been carried on our books for years, be written off.
6. Your committee would call attention to the cash position of our treasury, which is somewhat lower than last year, but which would automatically right itself if all the congregations met in full their apportionment. Likewise

would we draw attention to the Pastors' Memorial Fund, which should be augmented.

Your committee tenders a sincere vote of thanks to our treasurer for work well done. We trust he may carry on for a long while.

FISHER EINARSON, SKULI STEFANSON,
G. F. GISLASON

Sessional Papers No. 24

Committee on Resolutions

1. The Synod expresses its gratitude to the Rev. Franklin Clark Fry, D.D., Th.D., president of the United Church, for his visit and his inspiring address to the convention, by rising vote, and instructs its secretary to convey its thanks to Dr. Fry.
2. That the secretary be instructed to reply to all greetings received by the Convention.
3. The Synod expresses its sincere thanks to the Lundar Community, the Lutheran Congregation, to the Ladies' Aid, and their co-workers, and to the pastor loci Rev. Johann Fredrickson for excellent entertainment and hospitality at this convention.

V. J. EYLANDS, E. S. SIGMAR,
SKULI SIGFUSSON.

Books and Publications

Obtainable from the Treasurer, Mr. N. O. Bardal,
843 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

SÁLMABÓKIN, Icelandic hymnal in cloth binding.....	\$2.50
SÁLMABÓKIN, in overlapping leather binding.....	5.00
SUNNUDAGASKÓLABÓKIN, Icelandic S.S. hymnal.....	.90
BIBLÍUSÓGUR,	
Icelandic Bible Stories, by Rev. F. Hallgrímsson.....	.40
PROCEEDINGS OF SYNOD (Gjörðabók)50
COMMON SERVICE BOOK, Word Edition.....	2.50
Music Edition	3.00
PARISH AND CHURCH SCHOOL HYMNAL.....	1.50
LUTHERANS IN CANADA, by Rev. V. J. Eylands.....	3.00
JON BJARNASON, RIT OG RÆÐUR (Publ. by Synod).....	3.50
SAMEININGIN, Monthly publication in Icelandic,	
Annual subscription	1.00

Manager, Mrs. B. S. Benson, 695 Sargent Ave., Winnipeg, Man.

Directory of Synod

Honorary Patron: The Most Reverend Sigurgeir Sigurdson, Bishop of Iceland.

Honorary President: Rev. Kristinn K. Olafson, Sharon, Wisconsin.

Honorary Life Members: Rev. R. Marteinson, D.D., and Mrs. Ingunn Marteinson, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

President: Rev. Egill H. Fafnis, Mountain, North Dakota.

Secretary and Statistician: Rev. H. S. Sigmar, Gimli, Manitoba.

Treasurer: Mr. N. O. Bardal, 843 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Vice-President: Rev. V. J. Eylands, 686 Banning St., Winnipeg, Man.

Assistant Secretary: Rev. S. Olafson, Selkirk, Manitoba.

Assistant Treasurer: J. G. Johannson, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Stewardship Secretary: Rev. E. H. Sigmar, Seattle, Washington.

TRUSTEES OF SYNOD

The President

The Secretary

The Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ministers

Rev. E. H. Fafnis
Rev. H. S. Sigmar
Rev. S. Olafson
Rev. V. J. Eylands

Laymen

Mr. N. O. Bardal
Mr. Skuli Stefanson
Mr. J. G. Johannson

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Ministers

Rev. V. J. Eylands
Rev. S. Olafson
Rev. J. Fredriksson

Laymen

Mr. B. S. Johnson
Mr. Joe Peterson

TRUSTEES OF BETEL OLD FOLKS' HOME

Term Expires 1952—Rev. S. Olafson, Mr. H. Bjarnason,
Mr. S. A. Anderson.

Term Expires 1953—Mr. J. J. Swanson, Mr. V. Sigvaldason.

Term Expires 1954—Mrs. B. J. Brandson, Dr. O. B. Olson.

Trustee, representing the Synod on the Board of Old Folks' Home
"Höfn", Vancouver, B.C., Dr. B. T. H. Marteinson.

TRUSTEES OF BORG OLD PEOPLE'S HOME

The election of Chris Gudmundson and Joe Northfield was ratified by the convention, but who the other trustees are was not known as no report was presented to the convention.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mr. Stefan Guttormsson (chairman), Jon Eylands, Eric Sigmar.

Editor of Sameiningin: Rev. V. J. Eylands, Winnipeg

Business Mgr.: Mrs. Flora Benson, 695 Sargent Ave., Winnipeg, Man.

Editor of Parish Messenger: Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, Seattle.

Auditors: Mr. Fred Thordarson (Synod), Mr. O. B. Olsen (Betel).

Representative to Manitoba Temperance Alliance: Mrs. A. S. Bardal,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Representative to United Temperance Movement in Minnesota and
North Dakota: Rev. G. Guttormsson, Minneota, Minnesota.

Synodical Lay Director for Christian Higher Education Year Appeal:
Mr. Herman Arason, Glenboro, Manitoba.

CONTENTS

Agenda	4, 55, 60
Apportionment	48, 58
Christian Education	58
Christian Higher Education Year	27, 48
Co-operation with U.L.C.A.	58
Congregations of Synod	15, 16, 24
Constitution of Synod	8, 63
Condolence	13, 29
Credentials Committee	4, 16
Directory of Synod	67
Delegates	4
Devotions	64
Elections	11
Executive	63, 67
Finance Committee	13, 65
Forums on Faith and Doctrine	13
Greetings	3, 5, 13, 66
In Memoriam	29
Laymen	9, 61
Lutheran Women's League	5, 6, 9, 49, 60, 61
Lutheran World Action	48, 58
Ministers of Synod	15
Missions	4, 8, 35, 56, 58
Officers of Synod	11, 15, 67
Old People's Homes	4, 8, 12, 42, 57
Parish Messenger	6, 13, 62
Programs, Evening	7, 10
Publications	9, 61, 66
Report of President	8, 17
Report of Secretary	30
Report of Treasurer	32, 33, 34
Resolutions and Greetings	13, 66
Revision of Convention Procedure	62
Sameiningin	5, 13, 43, 61, 62
Services, Worship	10
Shortage of Ministers	26
Stewardship	47, 10
Sunday School	22, 51, 60
Temperance	5, 13, 50, 64
U.L.C.A. Representative	7, 11, 58, 66
Unfinished Business	14
Youth Activities	6, 9, 58, 60

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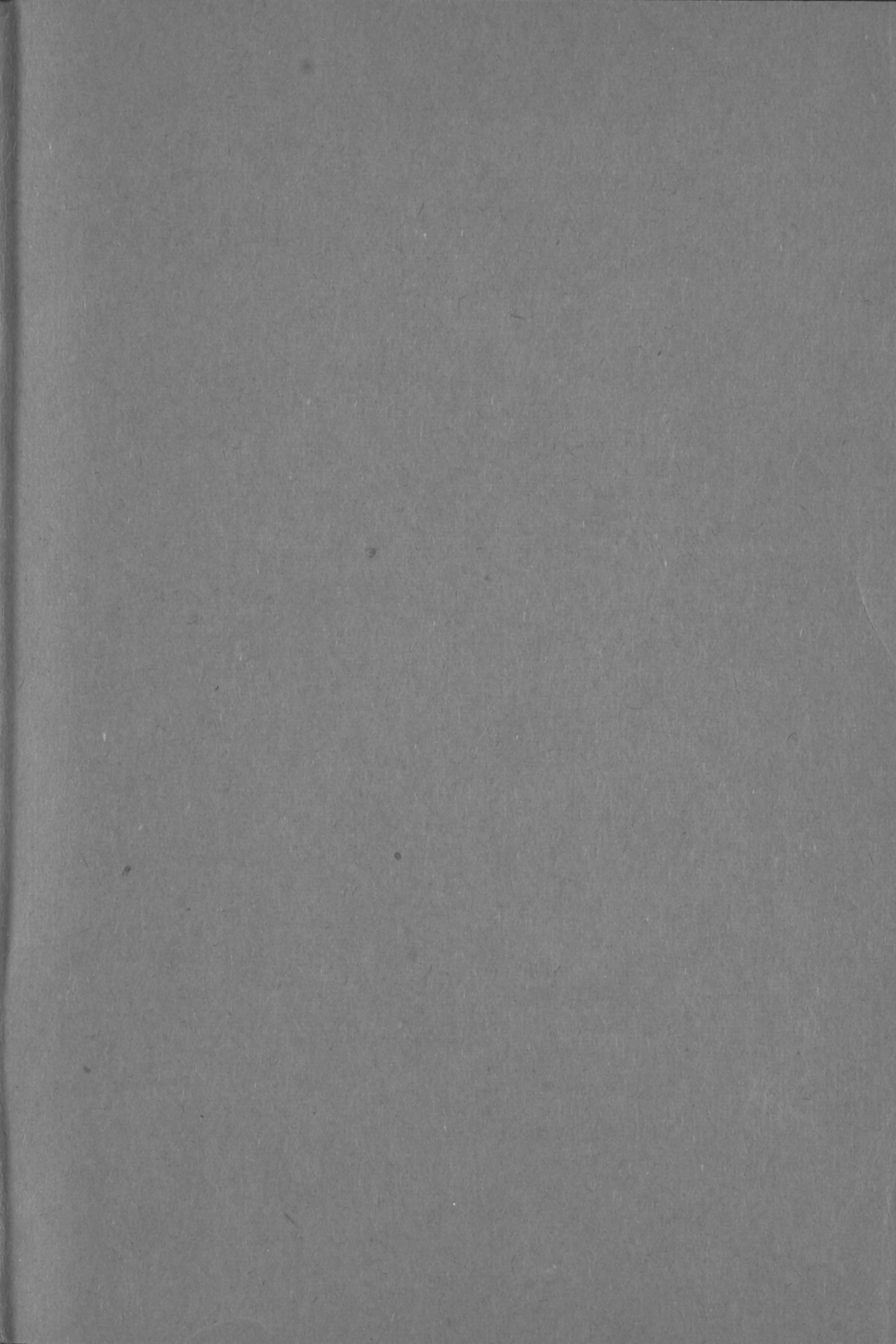
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